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A VIEW OF SOCIETY AND MANNERS IN FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, AND GERMANY:

WITH

ANECDOTES relating to ſome EMINENT CHARACTERS.

BY JOHN MOORE, M.D.

VOL. II.

> Strenua nos exercet inertia: navibus atque
> Quadrigis petimus bene vivere. Quod petis, hic eſt.
>
> HOR.

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A VIEW OF SOCIETY AND MANNERS IN France, Switzerland, and Germany.

LETTER L.

DEAR SIR, Frankfort.

SINCE my return from Darmſtadt, the weather has been ſo very bad, that I have paſſed the time moſtly at home. That I may obey your injunctions to write regularly at the ſtated periods, I will ſend you the ſubſtance of a converſation I had within theſe few days with a foreigner, a man of letters, with whom I am in a conſiderable degree of intimacy.

This gentleman has never been in England, but he ſpeaks the language a little, underſtands it very well, and has ſtudied many of our beſt Authors. He ſaid, that he had found in ſome Engliſh books, a ſolidity of reaſoning, and a ſtrength of expreſſion, ſuperior to any thing he had met with elſewhere;—that the Engliſh hiſtory furniſhed examples of patriotiſm and zeal for civil liberty, equal to what was recorded in the Greek or Roman ſtory;—that Engliſh poetry diſplayed a ſublimity of thought, and a knowledge of the human heart, which no writings, ancient or modern, could ſurpaſs; and in philoſophy it was pretty generally allowed, that the Engliſh nation had no rival.—He then mentioned the improvements made by Engliſhmen in medicine and other arts, their ſuperiority in navigation, commerce, and manufactures; and even hinted ſomething

thing in praiſe of a few Engliſh ſtateſmen. He concluded his panegyric by ſaying, that theſe conſiderations had given him the higheſt idea of the Engliſh nation, and had led him to cultivate the acquaintance of many Engliſhmen whom he had occaſionally met on their travels. But he frankly acknowledged, that his connection with theſe, had not contributed to ſupport the idea he had formed of their nation.

As I had heard ſentiments of the ſame kind inſinuated by others, I replied at ſome length, obſerving, that if he had lived in the moſt brilliant period of Roman grandeur, and had accidentally met with a few Romans in Greece or Aſia, and had formed his opinion of that illuſtrious commonwealth from the conduct and converſation of theſe travellers, his ideas would, in all probability, have been very different from thoſe which the writings of Livy, Cæſar, Cicero, and Virgil, had given him of the Roman people:—That the manners and behaviour of the few Engliſh he might have met abroad, ſo far from giving him a juſt view of the character of the whole nation, very poſſibly had led him to falſe concluſions with regard to the character of thoſe very individuals. For that I myſelf had known many young Engliſhmen, who, after having led a diſſipated, inſignificant kind of life while on their travels, and while the natural objects of their ambition were at a diſtance, had changed their conduct entirely upon their return, applied to buſineſs as eagerly as they had formerly launched into extravagance, and had at length become very uſeful members of the community.

But, continued I, throwing this conſideration out of the queſtion, the real character of a people can only be diſcovered by living among them on a familiar footing, and for a conſiderable time. This is neceſſary before we can form a juſt idea of any nation; but perhaps more ſo with reſpect to the Engliſh, than any other: for in no nation are the education, ſentiments, and purſuits of thoſe who travel, ſo different from thoſe of the people who remain at home.

The firſt claſs is compoſed of a few invalids, a great many young men raw from the univerſity, and ſome idle men of fortune, void of ambition, and incapable of application, who, every now and then, ſaunter through Europe, becauſe they know not how to employ their time at home.

The ſecond claſs is made up of younger brothers, who are bred to the army, navy, the law, and other profeſſions;—all who follow commerce, are employed in manufactures, or farming;—and, in one word, all who, not being born to independent fortunes, endeavour to remedy that inconveniency by induſtry, and the cultivation of their talents.

England is the only country in Europe whoſe inhabitants never leave it in ſearch of fortune. There are, moderately ſpeaking, twenty Frenchmen in London for every Engliſhman at Paris. By far the greater part of thoſe Frenchmen travel to get money, and almoſt all the Engliſh to ſpend it. But we ſhould certainly be led into great errors, by forming an idea of the character of the French nation from that of the French fiddlers, dancing-maſters, dentiſts, and valet-de-chambres to be met with in England, or other parts of Europe.

The gentleman acknowledged, that it would be unfair to decide on the French character from that of their fiddlers and dancing-maſters; but added, that he did not perceive that the Engliſh could reaſonably complain, ſhould foreigners form an opinion of their national character from the men of fortune, rank, and the moſt liberal education, of their iſland.

I anſwered, they certainly would, becauſe young men of high rank and great fortune carry a ſet of ideas along with them from their infancy, which very often diſappoint the purpoſes of the beſt education.——Let a child of high rank be brought up with all the care and attention the moſt judicious parents and maſters can give;—let him be told, that perſonal qualities alone can make him truly reſpectable;—that the fortuitous circumſtances of birth and fortune afford no juſt foundation for eſteem;—that knowledge and virtue are the true ſources of honour and happineſs;—that idleneſs produces vice and miſery;—that without application he cannot acquire knowledge;—and that without knowledge he will dwindle into inſignificance, in ſpite of rank and fortune:——Let theſe things be inculcated with all the power of perſuaſion; let them be illuſtrated by example, and inſinuated by fable and allegory;—yet, do we not daily ſee the effect of all this counteracted by the inſinuations of ſervants and baſe ſycophants, who give an importance to far different qualities, and preach a much more agreeable doctrine?——

They make eternal alluſions in all their diſcourſe and behaviour to the great eſtate the young ſpark is one day to have, and the great man he muſt be, independent of any effort of his own. They plainly inſinuate, if they do not directly ſay it, that ſtudy and application, tho' proper enough for hoſpital boys, is unneceſſary, or perhaps unbecoming a man of faſhion. They talk with rapture of the hounds, hunters, and race-horſes of one great man; of the rich liveries and brilliant equipage of another; and extol, above all others, thoſe who poſſeſs that firſt of virtues, liberality to their ſervants. They tell their young maſter, that his rank and eſtate entitle him to have finer hounds, horſes, liveries, and equipage than either, and to be more liberal to his ſervants; and conſequently a greater man in every reſpect.

This kind of poiſon, being often poured upon the young ſprouts of fortune and quality, gradually blaſts the vigour of the plants, and renders all care and cultivation ineffectual.

If we ſuppoſe that domeſtics of another character could be placed about a boy of high rank, and every meaſure taken to inſpire him with other ſentiments; he cannot ſtir abroad, he cannot go into company, without perceiving his own importance, and the attention that is paid to him. His childiſh pranks are called ſpirited actions; his pert ſpeeches are converted into bon mots; and when reproved or puniſhed by his parent or maſter, ten to one but ſome obſequious intermeddler will tell him that he has ſuffered great injuſtice.

The youth, improving all this to the purpoſes of indolence and vanity, arrives at length at the comfortable perſuaſion, that ſtudy or application of any kind would in him be ſuperfluous;—that he ought only to ſeek amuſement, for, at the bleſſed age of twenty-one, diſtinction, deference, admiration, and all other good things, will be added unto him.

A young man, on the other hand, who is born to no ſuch expectations, has no ſycophants around him to pervert his underſtanding;—when he behaves improperly, he inſtantly ſees the marks of diſapprobation on every countenance:—He daily meets with people who inform him of his faults without ceremony or circumlocution.—He perceives that nobody cares for his bad humour or caprice, and very naturally concludes that he had beſt correct his temper. —He finds that he is apt to be neglected in company, and that the only remedy for this inconveniency will be the rendering himſelf agreeable.—He loves affluence, diſtinction, and admiration, as well as the rich and great; but becomes fully convinced that he can never obtain even the ſhadow of them, otherwiſe than by uſeful and ornamental acquirements. The truth of thoſe precepts, which is proved by rhetoric and ſyllogiſm to the boy of fortune, is *experimentally* felt by him who has no fortune; and the difference which this makes is infinite.

So that the ſon of a gentleman of moderate fortune has a probability of knowing more of the world at the age of ſixteen, and of having a juſter notion of people's ſentiments of him, than a youth of very high rank at a much more advanced age; for it is very difficult for any perſon to find out that he is deſpiſed while he continues to be flattered.

So far, therefore, from being ſurpriſed that diſſipation, weakneſs, and ignorance, are ſo prevalent among thoſe who are born to great fortunes and high rank, we ought to be aſtoniſhed to ſee ſo great a number of men of virtue, diligence, and genius, among them as there is. And if the number be proportionably greater in England than in any other country, which I believe is the caſe, this muſt proceed from the impartial diſcipline of our public ſchools, and the equitable treatment which boys of the greateſt rank receive from their comrades. Sometimes the natural, manly ſentiments they acquire from their ſchool companions, ſerve as an antidote againſt the childiſh, ſophiſtical notions with which weak or deſigning men endeavour to inſpire them in after-life.

The nature of the Britiſh conſtitution contributes alſo to form a greater number of men of talents among the wealthy and the great, than are to be found in other countries; becauſe it opens a wider field for ambition than any other government;—and ambition excites thoſe exertions which produce talents.

But, continued I, you muſt acknowledge that it would be improper to form a judgment of the Engliſh genius, by ſamples taken from men who have greater temptations

tions to indolence, and fewer ſpurs to application, than others.

My diſputant ſtill conteſted the point, and aſſerted, that high birth gave a native dignity and elevation to the mind;—that diſtinctions and honours were originally introduced into families by eminent abilities and great virtues;—that when a man of illuſtrious birth came into a company, or even when his name was mentioned, this naturally raiſed a recollection of the great actions and ſhining qualities of the eminent perſon who had firſt acquired thoſe honours;—that a conſciouſneſs of this muſt naturally ſtimulate the preſent poſſeſſor to imitate the virtues of his anceſtors;—that his degenerating would ſubject him to the higheſt degree of cenſure, as the world could not, without indignation, behold indolence and vice adorned with the rewards of activity and virtue.

I might have diſputed this aſſertion, that honours and titles are always the rewards of virtue; and could have produced abundance of inſtances of the oppoſite propoſition. But I allowed that they often were ſo, and that hereditary honours in a family always ought to have, and ſometimes had, the effect which he ſuppoſed: but theſe conceſſions being made in their fulleſt extent, ſtill he would do injuſtice to the Engliſh, by forming a judgment of their national character, from what he had obſerved of the temper, manners, and genius of thoſe Engliſhmen with whom he had been acquainted in foreign countries; becauſe three-fourths of them were, in all probability, men of fortune, without having family or high birth to boaſt of; ſo that they had the greateſt inducements to indolence, without poſſeſſing the motives to virtuous exertions, which influence people of high rank.—For, though it rarely happened in other countries, it was very common in England for men of all the various profeſſions and trades to accumulate very great fortunes, which, at their death, falling to their ſons, theſe young men, without having had a ſuitable education, immediately ſet up for gentlemen, and run over Europe in the characters of Milords Anglois, game, purchaſe pictures, mutilated ſtatues, and miſtreſſes, to the aſtoniſhment of all beholders: And, conſcious of the blot in their eſcutcheon, they think it is incumbent on them to waſh it out, and make up for the impurity of their blood, by plunging deeper into the ocean of extravagance than is neceſſary for a man of hereditary faſhion.

Here our converſation ended, and the gentleman promiſed that he would abide by the idea he had formed of the Engliſh nation, from the works of Milton, Locke, and Newton, and the characters of Raleigh, Hambden, and Sidney.

LETTER LI.

Frankfort.

AMONG the remarkable things in Frankfort the inns may be reckoned. Two in particular, the Emperor and the Red Houſe, for cleanlineſs, conveniency, and number of apartments, are ſuperior to any I ever ſaw on the continent, and vie with our moſt magnificent inns in England.

At theſe, as at all other inns in Germany and Switzerland, there is an ordinary, at which the ſtrangers may dine and ſup. This is called the Table d'Hôte, from the circumſtance of the landlord's ſitting at the bottom of the table, and carving the victuals. The ſame name for an ordinary is ſtill retained in France, tho' the landlord does not ſit at the table, which was the caſe formerly in that country, and ſtill is the cuſtom in Germany.

There are no private lodgings to be had here, as in London, nor any hôtels garnis, as in Paris. Strangers therefore retain apartments at the inn during the whole time of their reſidence in any of the towns. And travellers of every denomination in this country, under the rank of ſovereign princes, make no ſcruple of eating occaſionally at the Table d'Hôte of the inn where they lodge, which cuſtom is univerſally followed by ſtrangers from every country on the continent of Europe.

Many of our countrymen, however, who deſpiſe œconomy, and hate the company of ſtrangers, prefer eating in their own apartments to the Table d'Hôte, or any private table to which they may be invited.

It would be arrogance in any body to diſpute the right which every free-born Engliſhman has to follow his own inclination in this particular: Yet when people wiſh to avoid the company of ſtrangers, it ſtrikes me, that they might indulge their fancy as completely at home as abroad; and while they continue in that humour, I cannot help thinking that they might ſave themſelves the inconveniency and expence of travelling.

The manners and genius of nations, it is true, are not to be learnt at inns; nor is the moſt ſelect company to be found at public ordinaries; yet a perſon of obſervation, and who is fond of the ſtudy of character, will ſometimes find inſtruction and entertainment at both. He there ſees the inhabitants of the country on a leſs ceremonious footing than he can elſewhere, and hears the remarks of travellers of every degree.

The firſt care of a traveller certainly ſhould be, to form an acquaintance and ſome degree of intimacy with the principal people in every place where he intends to reſide ;—to accept invitations to their family parties, and attend their ſocieties ;—to entertain them at his apartments, when that can be conveniently done, and endeavour to acquire a juſt notion of their government, cuſtoms, ſentiments, and manner of living. —Thoſe who are fond of the ſtudy of man, which, with all due deference to the philoſophers who prefer that of beaſts, birds, and butterflies, is not unnatural philoſophy, will mix occaſionally with all degrees of people, and, when not otherwiſe engaged, will not ſcruple to take a ſeat at the Table d'Hôte.

It is ſaid that low people are ſometimes to be found at theſe ordinaries. This to be ſure is a weighty objection; but then it ſhould be remembered, that it is within the bounds of poſſibility that men, even engaged in commerce, may have liberal minds, and may be able to give as diſtinct accounts of what is worthy of obſervation, as if they had been as idle as people of the higheſt faſhion through the whole of their lives. A man muſt have a very turgid idea of his own grandeur, if he cannot ſubmit, in a foreign country, to dine at table with a perſon of inferior rank; eſpecially as he will meet, at the ſame time, with others of equal, or ſuperior rank to himſelf: For all etiquette of this nature is waved even in Germany at the Tables d'Hôtes.

A knowledge of the characters of men, as they appear varied in different ſituations and countries—the ſtudy of human nature indeed in all its forms and modifications, is highly intereſting to the mind, and worthy the attention of the greateſt man. This is not to be perfectly attained in courts and palaces. The inveſtigator of nature muſt viſit her in humbler life, and put himſelf on a level with the men whom he wiſhes to know.

It is generally found, that thoſe who poſſeſs real greatneſs of mind, never heſitate to overleap the obſtacles, and deſpiſe the forms, which may ſtand in the way of their acquiring this uſeful knowledge.

The moſt powerful of all arguments againſt entirely declining to appear at the public table of the inn, is, that in this country it is cuſtomary for the ladies themſelves, when on a journey, to eat there; and my partiality for the Table d'Hôte may poſſibly be owing in ſome degree to my having met, at one of them, with two of the handſomeſt women that I have ſeen ſince I have been in this country, which abounds in female beauty.

There is more expreſſion in the countenances of French women; but the ladies in Germany have the advantage in the fairneſs of their ſkin, and the bloom of their complexion. They have a greater reſemblance to Engliſh women than to French; yet they differ conſiderably from them both.—I do not know how to give an idea of the various ſhades of expreſſion, which, if I miſtake not, I can diſtinguiſh in the features of the ſex in theſe three countries.

A handſome French woman, beſides the eaſe of her manner, has commonly a look of cheerfulneſs and great vivacity.—She appears willing to be acquainted with you, and ſeems to expect that you ſhould addreſs her.

The manner of an Engliſh woman is not ſo devoid of reſtraint; and a ſtranger, eſpecially if he be a foreigner, may obſerve a look which borders on diſdain in her countenance. Even among the lovelieſt features, ſomething of a ſulky air often appears. While their beauty allures, this in ſome degree checks that freedom of addreſs which you might uſe to the French woman, and intereſts your vanity more, by giving the idea of the difficulties you have to conquer.

A German beauty, without the ſmart air of the one, or the reſerve of the other, has generally a more placid look than either.

LETTER LII.

Frankfort.

SEVERAL individuals here are fond of diſtinguiſhing themſelves by their paſſion for the fine arts, and ſtrangers are informed, that it is well worth while to viſit certain private collections of paintings which are to be ſeen at Frankfort.

You know I am no connoiſſeur; and if I were, ſhould not take up your time in deſcribing them, or giving a criticiſm on their ſubject. For though I have ſeen them, you have not; and nothing, in my opinion, can be more unintelligible and tireſome to the Reader, than criticiſms on paintings which he has not ſeen. I ſhall only obſerve that as all theſe collections have acquired the eſteem and approbation of the proprietors, which I preſume was the chief end of their creation, they are certainly entitled to reſpect from every unconcerned ſpectator.——One of them in particular muſt be very valuable, on account of the prodigious ſum of money which the preſent poſſeſſor was offered for it, and which he refuſed as inadequate to its worth; though the ſum offered would have at once made the gentleman eaſy in his circumſtances, which, I am ſorry to ſay, is far from being the caſe. This anecdote cannot be doubted, for I had it from his own mouth.

It is ſtill more the faſhion here to form cabinets of natural curioſities. Beſides the repoſitories of this kind, which are to be ſeen at the courts of the princes, many individuals all over Germany have muſeums in their houſes, and ſtrangers cannot pay their court better, than by requeſting permiſſion to ſee them. This would be an eaſy piece of politeneſs, if the ſtranger were allowed to take a view, and walk away when he thought proper. But the miſfortune is, that the proprietor attends on theſe occaſions, and gives the hiſtory of every piece of ore, petrifaction, foſſil-wood, and monſter that is in the collection. And as this lecture is given gratis, he aſſumes the right of making it as long as he pleaſes: ſo that requeſting a ſight of a private collection of natural curioſities, is a more ſerious matter than people are aware of.

The Duke of Hamilton has brought himſelf into a ſcrape, out of which I imagine it will be difficult to extricate him. Being unacquainted with the trouble which theſe gentlemen give themſelves on ſuch occaſions, he has expreſſed an inclination to three or four virtuoſi to ſee their cabinets. I attended him on his firſt viſitation yeſterday. The gentleman made an unuſual exertion to pleaſe his Grace. He ſaid, being fully convinced of his taſte for natural philoſophy, in which people of his high rank were never deficient, he would therefore take pleaſure to explain every particular in the collection with the greateſt deliberation. He had kept himſelf diſengaged the whole forenoon on purpoſe, and had given orders not to be interrupted. He then deſcanted on each particular in the collection, with ſuch minuteneſs and perſeverance, as completely ſatiated his Grace's curioſity, and gave him ſuch a knowledge of earths, cryſtals, agates, pyrites, marcaſites, petrifactions, metals, ſemi-metals, &c. &c. as will, I dare ſwear, ſerve him for the reſt of his life.

Caſſel.

I began this letter at Frankfort, not ſuſpecting that our departure would be ſo ſudden. But as the day approached on which we had been promiſed the ſight of another cabinet of curioſities, I found the Duke's impatience to be gone increaſe every moment. So ſending our apology to the proprietors of two or three which he had aſked permiſſion to viſit, we paſſed one day with Madame de Barkhauſe's family, and another with Mr. Gogle's, and then bidding a haſty adieu to our other acquaintances at Frankfort, we ſet out for this place. We ſlept the firſt night at Marburg, and on the ſecond, about midnight, arrived at Caſſel.

As the ground is quite covered with ſnow, the roads bad, and the poſts long, we were obliged to take ſix horſes for each chaiſe, which, after all, in ſome places moved no faſter than a couple of hearſes. The Duke bore this with wonderful ſerenity, contemplating the happy evaſion he had made from the cabinets at Frankfort. A ſlave who had eſcaped from the mines could not have ſhown greater ſatisfaction. His good humour remained proof againſt all the phlegm and obſtinacy of the German poſtillions, of which one who has not travelled in the extremity of the winter, and when the roads are covered with ſnow, through this country, can form no idea.

The contraſt of character between the French and Germans is ſtrongly illuſtrated in the behaviour of the poſtillions of the two countries.

A French poſtillion is generally either laughing, or fretting, or ſinging, or ſwearing, all the time he is on the road. If a hill or a bad road oblige him to go ſlow, he will of a ſudden fall a cracking his whip above his head for a quarter of an hour together, without rhyme or reaſon; for he knows the horſes cannot go a bit faſter, and he does not intend they ſhould. All this noiſe and emotion, therefore, means nothing; and proceeds entirely from that abhorrence of quiet which every Frenchman ſucks in with his mother's milk.

A German poſtillion, on the contrary, drives four horſes with all poſſible tranquillity.

lity. He neither ſings, nor frets, nor laughs: he only ſmokes;—and when he comes near a narrow defile, he ſounds his trumpet to prevent any carriage from entering at the other end till he has got through. If you call to him to go faſter, he turns about, looks you in the face, takes his pipe from his mouth, and ſays, Yaw, Mynheer, —yaw, yaw; and then proceeds exactly in the ſame pace as before. He is no way affected whether the road be good or bad; whether it rains, or ſhines, or ſnows:—And he ſeems to be totally regardleſs of the people whom he drives, and equally callous to their reproach or applauſe. He has one object of which he never loſes ſight, which is, to conduct your chaiſe and the contents from one poſt to another, in the manner he thinks beſt for himſelf and the horſes. And unleſs his pipe goes out (in which caſe he ſtrikes his flint and rekindles it), he ſeems not to have another idea during the whole journey.

Your beſt courſe is to let him take his own way at firſt, for it will come to that at laſt.—All your noiſe and bluſter are vain.

Non vultus inſtantis tyranni
Mente quatit ſolida, neque Auſter
Dux inquieti turbidus Adriæ
Nec fulminantis magna Jovis manus *.

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* Not the proud tyrant's fierceſt threat,
Nor ſtorms that from their dark retreat
The lawleſs ſurges wake;
Not Jove's dread bolt that ſhakes the pole,
The firmer purpoſe of his ſoul,
With all its power can ſhake.

BLACKLOCKE.

LETTER LIII.

Caſſel.

THE attention and civilities which are paid to the Duke of Hamilton by this court, have induced us to remain longer than we intended at our arrival.

As you ſeem curious to know how we paſs our time, and the ſtyle of living here, I ſhall give you a ſketch of one day, which, with little variation, may give you an idea of all the reſt.

We generally employ the morning and forenoon in ſtudy. We go to the palace about half an hour before dinner is ſerved, where we find all the officers, who have been invited, aſſembled in a large room. The Landgrave ſoon appears, and continues converſing with the company till his conſort arrives with the princeſs Charlotte, and ſuch ladies as they have thought proper to invite.

The company then walk to the dining parlour, where there are about thirty covers every day, and the ſame number in a room adjoining. The doors being left open between theſe apartments, the whole forms in a manner but one company. The ſtrangers, and ſuch officers as are not under the rank of colonel, dine at their Highneſſes table.

The repaſt continues about two hours, during which the converſation is carried on with ſome little appearance of conſtraint, and rather in a low voice, except when either of their Highneſſes ſpeaks to any perſon ſeated at a little diſtance.

After dinner the company returns to the room where they firſt aſſembled. In this they remain till the Landgrave retires, which he uſually does within about a quarter

ter of an hour. Soon after, the company ſeparates till ſeven in the evening, when they again aſſemble.

The Landgrave plays conſtantly at Cavaniolle, a kind of lottery, where no addreſs or attention is requiſite, and which needs hardly interrupt converſation. It requires about a dozen players to make his party.

The Landgravine plays at Quadrille, and chooſes her own party every night.—Other card-tables are ſet in the adjoining rooms, for the conveniency of any who chooſe to play. The gaming continues about a couple of hours. The Landgrave then ſalutes her Highneſs on both cheeks, and retires to his own apartments, while ſhe and the reſt of the company go to ſupper. At this repaſt there is leſs formality, and of conſequence more eaſe and gaiety, than at dinner.

When her Highneſs riſes from table, moſt part of the company attend her up ſtairs to a ſpacious anti-chamber, where ſhe remains converſing a few minutes, and then retires.

Theſe general forms are ſometimes varied by a concert in the Landgrave's apartments. There are alſo certain days of Gala, which are only diſtinguiſhed by the company's being more numerous, and better dreſſed, than uſual: two circumſtances which do not add a vaſt deal to the pleaſure of the entertainment.

During the Carnival, there were two or three maſquerades. On theſe occaſions the court aſſemble about ſix in the evening, the men being all in Dominos, and the ladies in their uſual dreſs, or with the addition of a few fanciful ornaments, according to the particular taſte of each.

They amuſe themſelves with cards and converſation till the hour of ſupper. During

ing this interval, a gentleman of the court carries a parcel of tickets in his hat, equal to the number of men in company. Theſe are preſented to the ladies, each of whom draws one. Tickets in the ſame manner are preſented to the men, who take one apiece, which they keep till the card-playing is finiſhed.

The officer then calls number One, upon which the couple who are poſſeſſed of that number come forward, and the gentleman leads the lady into the ſupper-room, ſits by her, and is her partner for the reſt of the evening. In the ſame manner every other number is called.

After ſupper, all the company put on their maſks. Her Highneſs is led into the maſquerade room. The reſt follow, each lady being handed by her partner. The Landgravine and her partner walk to the upper end of the room.—The next couple ſtop at a ſmall diſtance below them; the third next to the ſecond, and ſo on till this double file reaches from the top to the bottom of the hall. If there are any ſupernumeraries, they muſt retire to the ſides.—From this arrangement you expect a country dance:—a minuet however is intended:—the muſic begins, and all the maſkers on the floor, conſiſting of twenty or thirty couple, walk a minuet together. This, which is rather a confuſed affair, being over, every body ſits down, the Landgravine excepted, who generally dances nine or ten minuets ſucceſſively with as many different gentlemen. She then takes her ſeat till the reſt of the company have danced minuets, which being over, the cotillons and country dances begin, and continue till four or five in the morning.

Her Highneſs is a very beautiful woman, graceful in her perſon, and of a gay and ſprightly character. She is in danger of growing corpulent, an inconveniency not uncommon in Germany, but which ſhe endeavours to retard by uſing a great deal of exerciſe.

Beſides the company who ſup at court, the rooms were generally crowded with maſks from the town, ſome of whom are in fancy dreſſes, and keep themſelves concealed all the time. And although thoſe who came from the court are known when they enter the maſquerade rooms, many of them ſlip out afterwards, change their dreſs, and return to amuſe themſelves, by teaſing their friends in their aſſumed characters, as is uſual at maſquerades.

The country dances are compoſed of all perſons promiſcuouſly, who incline to join in them.—Two women of pleaſure, who had come to paſs the Carnival at Caſſel in the exerciſe of their profeſſion, and were well known to many of the officers, danced every maſquerade night in the country-dance, which her Highneſs led down; for the maſk annihilates ceremony, puts every body on a footing, and not unfrequently, while it conceals the face moſt effectually, ſerves ſo much the more to diſcover the real character and inclinations of the wearer.

LETTER LIV.

Caſſel.

NEXT to the Electors of the Empire, the Landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel is one of the greateſt Princes in Germany; and even of thoſe, the electors of Bohemia, Bavaria, Saxony, and Hanover, only are richer and more powerful than he. His country is in general hilly, with a great deal of wood, but interſperſed with fertile vallies and corn-fields. The large ſubſidies this court received from Britain during the two laſt wars, with what is given in the time of peace, by way of retaining fee, have greatly contributed to the preſent flouriſhing ſtate of its finances.

The reigning Prince forſook the Proteſtant faith about twenty years ago, and made a public profeſſion of the Roman Catholic religion, in the life-time of the late Landgrave, his father. This gave great uneaſineſs to the old Prince, and alarmed his ſubjects, who are all Proteſtants.

The ſtates of the Landgraviate were aſſembled on this important occaſion, and ſuch meaſures taken as were judged neceſſary to maintain the religion and conſtitution of the country againſt any future attempt to ſubvert them. The Hereditary Prince was excluded from all ſhare in the education of his ſons, who were put under the tuition of the Princeſs Mary of Great Britain, his firſt wife, living at that time ſeparate from her huſband. The eldeſt ſon, upon his father's acceſſion to the Landgraviate, was put in poſſeſſion of the county of Hanau; ſo that the inhabitants have felt no inconveniency from the change of their Prince's religion. And as he himſelf has reaped no earthly advantage, either in point of honour or profit, by his converſion, it is preſumable, that his Highneſs's hopes are now limited to the rewards which may await him in another world.

This Prince keeps on foot 16,000 men in time of peace, diſciplined according to the Pruſſian plan, the Landgrave himſelf having the rank of Field Marſhal in the Pruſſian army. The Prince is fond of exerciſing them; but not having a houſe on purpoſe, as the Prince of Heſſe Darmſtadt has, he takes that amuſement when the weather is very bad in the dining-room of his palace, where I have frequently ſeen two or three hundred of the firſt battalion of guards perform their manœuvres with all poſſible dexterity.

The Prince of Saxe-Gotha, brother to the late Princeſs of Wales, has a regiment in the Landgrave's ſervice, and reſides at Caſſel.

The perſon who has the chief management in military affairs, is General Scliven, a man of an exceeding juſt and accurate underſtanding, which he has finely cultivated by reading and reflection.

I have the happineſs to be intimately acquainted with many other officers in this ſervice.—An open manner, and undeſigning civility, diſtinguiſh the German character; qualities which naturally baniſh reſerve, and inſpire confidence. And what makes the converſation of theſe gentlemen ſtill more agreeable and intereſting to me, is, the juſtice they ſeem fond of rendering to the bravery of the Britiſh troops with whom they ſerved. They always mention the names of Granby, Waldgrave, and Kingſley, with the higheſt encomiums, and ſpeak with affectionate regard of ſome officers with whom they were more intimately acquainted, particularly Mr. Keith, now at Vienna, and Colonel John Maxwell, whom they applaud as one of the braveſt and moſt active officers that ſerved in the allied army; and ſeem fond of mentioning inſtances of the amazing intrepidity of the Britiſh grenadiers whom he commanded.

Beſides thoſe actually in the Landgrave's ſervice, there are ſome other perſons of note who reſide at Caſſel. I ſometimes paſs an afternoon with old General Zaſtrow, who had the command of the garriſon of Schweidnitz, when it was ſurpriſed by the Auſtrian general Laudohn.

If you recollect, that important place had been taken from the Pruſſians in the year 1757, by Count Nadaſti. It was blockaded by the King of Pruſſia in the winter of that ſame year, and ſurrendered to him in ſpring 1758, after one half of the garriſon had fallen in defending the place. In the year 1761 Laudohn retook it, almoſt in ſight of the Pruſſian monarch, by the moſt brilliant coup-de-main that perhaps ever was ſtruck.

The King's army and Laudohn's were both in the neighbourhood of Schweidnitz. The latter could not attempt a regular ſiege, while he was watched by ſuch an enterpriſing enemy. But obſerving that the King had moved at a greater diſtance than uſual from the town, and knowing that more than one half of the garriſon had been drafted, he reſolved on an enterpriſe as bold as it was ſagacious. One morning early this vigilant commander, taking the advantage of a thick fog, marched his army to the town of Schweidnitz in four diviſions. Scaling-ladders were applied to the ramparts, and ſome of the Auſtrians had actually entered the town, before they were obſerved by the centinels.

The garriſon, being at laſt rouſed, attacked the aſſailants in a furious manner.—The confuſion was increaſed by the blowing up of a powder magazine, which deſtroyed great numbers on both ſides. The Governor was taken priſoner, fighting ſword in hand on the ramparts, and the town ſurrendered.

This exploit eſtabliſhed the reputation of Laudohn, while poor Zaſtrow, according to the uſual fate of the unfortunate, became a prey to the calumny of the unfeeling and ungenerous. He demanded a trial by a court martial.—The King ſaid there was no occaſion for that, as he did not accuſe him of any crime.—But he did not judge it expedient to employ him in any command after this misfortune.

I have heard the old man relate all the particulars of that affair, and the account he gave has been confirmed to me by officers well informed, and unconnected with him.

A company of French comedians are lately arrived here, which forms a new reſource for the court. They remain ſix weeks, or two months. The Landgrave pays them a ſtipulated ſum for acting twice a week a week during that time; and they have ſcarcely any emolument beſide; for the inhabitants of Caſſel, who are Calviniſts, ſhew no great paſſion for dramatic entertainments.

The playhouſe is neat, though ſmall. The front gallery, with a convenient room behind, is appropriated to the court. When the Prince or Princeſs ſtands up, whether between the acts, or in the time of the repreſentation, all the audience, pit, box, and gallery, immediately ariſe, and remain in a ſtanding poſture till their ſovereign ſit down.

Since the arrival of theſe players, the court has been uncommonly brilliant, and the Gala days more frequent. Yeſterday was a very ſplendid one. I then obſerved in the drawing-room two perſons, neither of whom is a Heſſian, ſaluting each other with great politeneſs and apparent regard. A little after, one of them touched my ſhoulder, and, pointing to the other, whiſpered in my ear,—Prenez garde, Monſieur, de cet homme; c'eſt un grand coquin.

The other within a few minutes came to me, ſaying, Croyez vous, Monſieur, que vouz puiſſiez reconnoitre un fou ſi je vous le montrois?—Le voilà, added he, ſhowing the perſon who had whiſpered me before.

I have been ſince told, by thoſe who know both, that each had hit exactly upon the other's character.

This little trait I have mentioned merely on account of its ſingularity, and to ſhow you how very different the manners of this court, and the ſentiments of the courtiers here with regard to each other, are from thoſe at St. James's.

LETTER LV.

Caſſel.

THE city of Caſſel is ſituated on the river Fulda. It conſiſts of an old and new town. The former is the largeſt and moſt irregular. The new town is well built; and there, as you may believe, the nobility and officers of the court have their houſes. The ſtreets are beautiful, but not over-crowded with inhabitants.

Beſides the large chateau in the town of Caſſel, which is the Landgrave's winter reſidence, he has ſeveral villas and caſtles in different parts of his dominions. Immediately without the town, there is a very beautiful building, in which he dwells for the moſt part of the ſummer. The apartments there are neat and commodious, ſome of them adorned with antique ſtatues of conſiderable value.

None of the rooms are ſpacious enough to admit of exerciſing any conſiderable number of the troops within their walls; but his Highneſs ſometimes indulges in this favourite recreation on the top of this villa, which has a flat roof, moſt convenient for that purpoſe.

Around this are ſome noble parks and gardens, with a very complete orangery. There is alſo a menagerie, with a conſiderable collection of curious animals. I ſaw there a very fine lioneſs, which has lately loſt her huſband—an elephant—three camels in fine condition, one of them milk-white, the other two grey, and much taller than the elephant;—an African deer, a fierce and lively animal, with a ſkin beautifully ſpotted;—a very tall rein-deer—ſeveral leopards—a bear, and a great variety of monkies. The collection of birds is ſtill more complete, a great many of which are from the Eaſt Indies.

In the academy of arts, which is ſituated in the new town, are ſome valuable antiques, and other curioſities, among which is a St. John in Moſaic, done after a picture of Raphaël's, with the following inſcription below it:

IMAGINEM S. JOHANNES
EX ITALIA ADVENAM
IN RARUM RARÆ INDUSTRIÆ HUMANÆ MONUMENTUM
HANC COLLOCARI JUSSIT
FREDERICUS II. HASSIÆ LANDGR.
A. M.D.CCLXV.

But this art of copying paintings in Moſaic work, I underſtand has of late been brought to a much greater degree of perfection at Rome.

In the veſtibule is placed the trunk of a laurel tree, with this inſcription on the wall behind it:

QUÆ
PER OCTO PRINCIPUM CATTORUM ÆTATIS
IN AMÆNIS INCLYTI CASSEL.
VIRIDARII SPATIAM FLORUIT
LAURUS
ALT. CIRCITER LIV. LAT. IV. PED. RHENAN.
AD TEMPORA HEROUM
SERENISS. DOMUS HASSIÆ
CORONIS CINGENDA,
SENIO, SED NON IMPLORIS, EMORTUA EST
NE VERO TOTA PERIRET
ARBOR APOLLINI SACRA
TRUNCUM IN MUSEO SERVARI JUSSIT
FREDERICUS II. H. L.
A. M.D.CCLXIII.

They alſo ſhow a ſword, which was conſecrated by the Pope, and ſent to one of the Princes of this family at his ſetting out on an expedition to the Holy Land. What havoc this ſacred weapon made among the infidels I cannot ſay.—It has a very venerable appearance for a ſword, and yet ſeems little the worſe for wear.

Near the old chateau, and a little to one ſide, is a colonnade of ſmall pillars lately built and intended as an ornament to the ancient caſtle, though in a very different ſtyle of architecture. The ſlimneſs of their form appears the more remarkable on account of their vicinity to this Gothic ſtructure.

Some time ſince, a mountebank came to Caſſel, who, beſides many other wonderful feats, pretended that he could ſwallow and digeſt ſtones. A Heſſian officer walking before the chateau with an Engliſh gentleman, who then happened to be at Caſſel, aſked him, What he thought of the fine new colonnade?—It is very fine indeed, replied the ſtranger; but if you wiſh it to be durable, you ought to take care not to allow the mountebank to walk this way before breakfaſt.

Nothing in the country of Heſſe is more worthy the admiration of travellers, than the Gothic temple and caſcade at Waſenſtein. There was originally at this place an old building, which was uſed by the Princes of this family as a kind of hunting-houſe. It is ſituated near the bottom of a high mountain, and has been enlarged and improved at different times. But the preſent Landgrave's grandfather, who was a prince of equal taſte and magnificence, formed, upon the face of the mountain oppoſite to this houſe, a ſeries of artificial cataracts, caſcades, and various kinds of water-works, in the nobleſt ſtyle that can be imagined.

The principal caſcades are in the middle, and on each ſide are ſtairs of large black ſtones of a flinty texture, brought from a rock at a conſiderable diſtance. Each of theſe ſtairs conſiſts of eight hundred ſteps, leading from the bottom to the ſummit of the mountain; and when the works are allowed to play, the water flowing over them forms two continued chains of ſmaller caſcades. At convenient diſtances, as you aſcend, are four platforms with a ſpacious baſon in each; alſo grottos and caves ornamented with ſhell-work ſtatues of Naïads, and ſea divinities.—One grotto, in particular, called the Grotto of Neptune and Amphitrite, is happily imagined, and well executed.

The water ruſhes from the ſummit of this mountain in various ſhapes:—Sometimes in detached caſcades, ſometimes in large ſheets like broad cryſtalline mirrors; at one place it is broken by a rock conſiſting of huge ſtones, artificially placed for that purpoſe.—There are alſo fountains which eject the water in columns of five or ſix inches diameter to a conſiderable height.

All this muſt have a very brilliant effect when viewed from the bottom. This ſight, however, I did not enjoy: for there has been a continued froſt ever ſince we have been at Caſſel; and when I viſited Waſenſtein, the fields were covered with ſnow, which did not prevent my going to the top, though it made the aſcent by the ſtairs exceedingly difficult.

On the higheſt part of the mountain, a Gothic temple is built, and upon the top of that an obeliſk, which is crowned by a coloſſal ſtatue of Hercules leaning on his club, in the attitude of the Farneſe Hercules. This figure is of copper, and thirty feet in height. There is a ſtaircaſe within the club by which a man may aſcend, and have a view of the country from a window at the top.

Waſenſtein, upon the whole, is infinitely the nobleſt work of the kind I ever ſaw. I have been aſſured, there is nothing equal to it in Europe. It has not the air of a modern work, but rather conveys the idea of Roman magnificence.

We think of leaving this within a few days for Brunſwick.—I ſhall not cloſe my letter till we get to Gottingen, where we may probably ſtay a ſhort time.

P. S. The Duke and I took our leave of the court and our friends yeſterday, and actually ſet out from Caſſel this morning; but finding the roads entirely overflowed by the extraordinary ſwelling of the Fulda, we were obliged to return. A great thaw for ſome days paſt diſſolving the ſnow and ice, has occaſioned this ſwelling, and rendered the roads impaſſable.

After taking leave we could not appear again at court, but dined at one of the meſſes with the officers.—From this party I am juſt returned, and finding it uncertain when we may get to Gottingen, I ſend this to-night.

Adieu.

LETTER LVI.

Brunſwick.

AS ſoon as the roads were paſſable, we left Caſſel, and arrived, not without difficulty and ſome riſk, at Munden, a town ſituated in a vale, where the Fulda, being joined by another river, takes the name of the Weſer.

This town ſeems to run ſome danger from inundations. The road, for a conſiderable way before we entered it, and the ſtreets neareſt the river, were ſtill overflowed when we paſſed.

We went on the ſame night to Gottingen, an exceedingly neat and well-built town, ſituated in a beautiful country. The Univerſity founded here by George the Second has a conſiderable reputation. We made but a ſhort ſtay at Gottingen, and arrived about a month ſince at Brunſwick.

The Duke of Hamilton had been expected here for ſome time, and was received by this court with every mark of attention and regard. He was preſſed to accept of apartments within the palace, which he thought proper to decline. We ſleep every night at private lodgings; but may be ſaid to live at court, as we conſtantly dine, paſs the evening, and ſup there, except two days in every week that we dine with the Hereditary Prince and Princeſs at their apartments.

The family of Brunſwick Wolfenbuttle derives not greater luſtre from its antiquity, from having given empreſſes to Germany, and from having a younger branch on the throne of Britain, than from ſome living characters now belonging to it.

The reigning Duke has that ſtyle of converſation, thoſe manners and diſpoſitions,

tions, which, in an inferior ſtation of life, would acquire him the character of a ſenſible, worthy gentleman.

The Ducheſs is the favourite ſiſter of the King of Pruſſia. She is fond of ſtudy, and particularly addicted to metaphyſical inquiries, which, happily, have not ſhaken, but confirmed her belief in Chriſtianity.

The military fame and public character of Duke Ferdinand are known to all Europe.—In private life, he is of a ceremonious politeneſs, ſplendid in his manner of living, attentive even to the minutiæ of his toilet, and fond of variety and magnificence in dreſs.

He has lived conſtantly at his brother's court ſince the Duke of Hamilton came to Brunſwick; but he generally paſſes the ſummer in the country.

The Hereditary Prince ſerved under his uncle during the laſt war, and commanded detached parties of the army with various ſucceſs. His activity, courage, and thirſt of glory, were always conſpicuous; but his youthful ardour has been ſince mellowed by time, ſtudy, and reflection; and if he ſhould again appear in the field as a general, it is imagined that he will be as much diſtinguiſhed for prudence, policy, and judgment, as he ever was for ſpirit and enterpriſe. He has at preſent the rank of Lieutenant-general in the King of Pruſſia's ſervice, and the command of the garriſon at Halberſtadt.

I ſay nothing of his Princeſs:—Her open cheerful character is well known in England, and her affection for her native country is in no degree diminiſhed by abſence.

The Prince Leopold is a very amiable young man. He ſeems much attached to the Duke of Hamilton, with whom he lives on an intimate and friendly footing.

His ſiſter, the Princeſs Auguſta, is greatly beloved by every body, on account of her obliging temper and excellent diſpoſition.

Theſe illuſtrious perſons always dine and ſup together, except two days in the week, as I have already ſaid. With them the officers of the court, and the ſtrangers who are invited, make a company of about twenty or thirty at table.

In the evening the aſſembly is more numerous. There is a large table for Vingt-un, the Ducheſs preferring this game, becauſe a great number of people may be engaged in it together. The reigning Duke and Prince Ferdinand always join in this game.

The Hereditary Princeſs forms a Quadrille party for herſelf: Her huſband never plays at all. The whole is intended merely for paſtime, all kinds of gaming being diſcouraged. The Ducheſs in particular always puts a very moderate ſtake on her cards. A man muſt have very bad luck to loſe above twenty piſtoles in an evening; ſo we are in no danger from gaming while at this court.

One wing of the palace is occupied by the Hereditary Prince's family. He has at preſent three ſons and as many daughters, all of the fair complexion, which diſtinguiſhes every branch of the Brunſwick line.

A few days ago, I accompanied Prince Leopold and the Duke of Hamilton on a viſit to Duke Ferdinand, who was then at his houſe in the country, about ſix miles from this place. In that retreat he paſſes the greateſt part of his time. He is fond of gardening, and is now employed in laying out and dreſſing the ground, in what is called the Engliſh taſte.

His Serene Highneſs conducted the Duke round all his park, and ſhewed him his plans and improvements. The greateſt obſtacle to the completely beautifying this place, ariſes from the ſurface of the country being a dead flat, and incapable of great variety.

The houſe is ſurrounded by a Foſſé; and contains a great number of apartments. The walls of every room are hung with prints, from the roof to within two feet of the floor. Perhaps there is not ſo complete a collection of framed ones in any private houſe or palace in the world. While Prince Ferdinand played at Billiards with the Duke of Hamilton, I continued with Prince Leopold examining theſe prints, and could ſcarcely recollect a good one that I did not find here.

His Highneſs ſaid it was equally difficult and expenſive to have a collection of good paintings, and nothing could be more paltry than a bad one: he had therefore taken the reſolution to adorn his houſe with what he certainly could have good of its kind; and, next to fine pictures, he thought fine prints the moſt amuſing of all ornaments. But, added he, with a ſmile, every tolerable room is now perfectly covered, and I have lately received a reinforcement of prints from England, which will oblige me to build new apartments to place them in, puiſque je ſuis toujours accoutumé à donner un poſte honorable aux Anglois.

The company had been invited to breakfaſt; but the repaſt was a very magnificent dinner, ſerved a little earlier than uſual. There were only ſix perſons at table; but the number of attendants might without difficulty have ſerved a company of thirty. The Prince, who is always in the utmoſt degree polite, was on this occaſion remarkably affable and gay. He called toaſts after the Engliſh cuſtom, and began himſelf by naming General Conway; he afterwards gave Sir H. Clinton, and continued to toaſt ſome Britiſh officer, as often as it came to his turn.—You may believe it afforded me ſatisfaction to have had an opportunity of obſerving a little of the private life of a perſon who has acted ſo conſpicuous a part on the theatre of Europe.

As he has not returned to the Pruſſian ſervice, and ſeems to enjoy rural amuſements, and the converſation of a few friends, it is thought he will not again take a part in public affairs, but for the reſt of his life repoſe, in this retreat, on the laurels he gathered in ſuch abundance during the laſt war.

LETTER LVII.

Brunſwick.

THE town of Brunſwick is ſituated in a plain, on the banks of the Ocker. The houſes in general are old, but many new buildings have been erected of late, and the city acquires freſh beauty every day.

Fortifications have been the cauſe of much calamity to many towns in Germany, having ſerved not to defend them, but rather to attract the vengeance of enemies. For this reaſon, Caſſel, and ſome other towns, which were formerly fortified, are now diſmantled. But the fortifications at Brunſwick were of great utility laſt war, and on one occaſion they ſaved the town from being pillaged, and afforded Prince

Frederick, who is now in the Pruſſian ſervice, an opportunity of performing an action, which, I imagine, gave him more joy than twenty victories. This happened in the year 1761, ſoon after the battle of Kirch Denkern, when Duke Ferdinand protected Hanover, not by conducting his army into that country and defending it directly, as the enemy ſeemed to expect, and probably wiſhed; but by diverſion, attacking with ſtrong detachments, commanded by the Hereditary Prince, their magazines in Heſſe, and thus drawing their attention from Hanover to that quarter.

While the Duke lay encamped at Willhemſthall, watching the motions of Broglio's army, the Marechal, being greatly ſuperior in numbers, ſent a body of 20,000 men, under Prince Xavier of Saxony, who took poſſeſſion of Wolfenbuttle, and ſoon after inveſted Brunſwick.

Prince Ferdinand, anxious to ſave his native city, ventured to detach 5000 of his army, ſmall as it was, under his nephew, Frederick, aſſiſted by General Luckener, with orders to haraſs the enemy, and endeavour to raiſe the ſiege. The young Prince, while on his march, ſent a ſoldier with a letter to the Governor, which was wrapped round a bullet, and which the ſoldier was to ſwallow in caſe of his being taken by the enemy.—He had the good fortune to get ſafe into the town.—The letter appriſed the commander of the garriſon of the Prince's approach, and particulariſed the night and hour when he expected to be at a certain place near the town, requiring him to favour his entrance.

In the middle of the night appointed, the Prince fell ſuddenly on the enemy's cavalry, who, unſuſpicious of his approach, were encamped careleſsly within a mile of the town. They were immediately diſperſed, and ſpread ſuch an alarm among the infantry, that they alſo retreated with conſiderable loſs.

Early in the morning, the young Prince entered Brunſwick, amidſt the acclamations of his fellow-citizens, whom he had relieved from the horrors of a ſiege.—The Hereditary Prince, having deſtroyed the French magazines in Heſſe, had been recalled by his uncle, and ordered to attempt the relief of Brunſwick. While he was advancing with all poſſible ſpeed, and had got within a few leagues of the town, he received the news of the ſiege being raiſed. On his arrival at his father's palace, he found his brother Frederick at table, entertaining the French officers, who had been taken priſoners the preceding night.

The academy of Brunſwick has been new-modelled, and the plan of education improved, by the attention, and under the patronage, of the Hereditary Prince. Students now reſort to this academy from many parts of Germany; and there are generally ſome young gentlemen from Britain, who are ſent to be educated here.

Such of them as are intended for a military life, will not find ſo many advantages united at any other place on the continent, as at the academy of Brunſwick. They will here be under the protection of a family, partial to the Britiſh nation;—every branch of ſcience is taught by maſters of known abilities;—the young ſtudents will ſee garriſon duty regularly performed, and may, by the intereſt of the Prince, obtain liberty to attend the reviews of the Pruſſian troops at Magdeburg and Berlin:—They will have few temptations to expence, in a town where they can ſee no examples of extravagance—have few opportunities of diſſipation, and none of groſs debauchery.

I paſſed a day lately at Wolfenbuttle, which is alſo a fortified city, the ancient reſidence of this family.—The public library here is reckoned one of the moſt complete in Germany, and contains many curious manuſcripts. They ſhowed us ſome letters of Luther, and other original pieces in that reformer's own handwriting.

Having dined with Colonel Riedeſel, who commands a regiment of cavalry in this town, I returned by Saltzdahlen. This is the only palace I ever ſaw built almoſt entirely of wood. There are, neverthleſs, ſome very magnificent apartments in it, and a great gallery of pictures, ſome of which are allowed by the connoiſſeurs to be excellent. I will not invade the province of theſe gentlemen, by preſuming to give my opinion of the merits or defects of the pictures, though I have often heard thoſe, who are as ignorant as myſelf, decide upon the intereſting ſubject of painting, in the moſt dogmatic manner. The terms Contour, Attitude, Caſting of Draperies, Charging, Coſtumé, Paſſion, Manner, Groupe, Out-line, Chiaro Scuro, Harmony, and Repoſe, flowed from their tongues, with a volubility that commanded the admiration of all thoſe who could not diſcover, that in the liberal uſe of theſe terms conſiſted all thoſe gentlemen's taſte and knowledge of the fine arts.

Conſcious of my ignorance in the myſteries of connoiſſeurſhip, I ſay nothing of the pictures, and preſume only to give my opinion, that the gallery which contains them is a very noble room, being two hundred feet long, fifty broad, and forty high.

In this palace there is alſo a cabinet of china porcelain, containing, as we were told, ſeven or eight thouſand pieces;—and in another ſmaller cabinet, we were ſhown a collection of coarſe plates, valuable only on account of their having been painted after deſigns of Raphaël.

The country about Brunſwick is agreeable. I was particularly pleaſed to ſee ſome gentlemen's ſeats near this town; a ſight very rare in Germany, where if you avoid towns and courts, you may travel over a great extent of country, without perceiving houſes for any order of men between the Prince and the Peaſant.

I ſpent yeſterday very agreeably, fourteen miles from Brunſwick, at the houſe of Mr. de Weſtphalen. This gentleman attended Duke Ferdinand during the late war in the character of his private ſecretary; an office which he executed entirely to the ſatisfaction of that Prince, whoſe friendſhip and confidence he ſtill retains.

Mr. de Weſtphalen has written the hiſtory of thoſe memorable campaigns, in which his patron had the command of the allied army, and baffled all the efforts of France in Weſtphalia. Though this work has been finiſhed long ſince, the publication has hitherto been delayed for political reaſons. It is to appear, however, at ſome future period, and is ſaid to be a maſterly performance,

formance. Indeed, one would naturally ſuppoſe this from the remarkable acuteneſs and ſagacity of the author, who was preſent at the ſcenes he deſcribes, and knew the ſecret intentions of the General, whoſe aſſiſtance he has probably had in finiſhing the work.

LETTER LVIII.

Brunſwick.

WE have had ſome maſquerade balls here of late.—The Court do not go in proceſſion to theſe as at Caſſel.—Thoſe who chuſe to attend, go ſeparately when they find it convenient.

There is a gallery in the maſquerade-room for the reigning family, where they ſometimes ſit without maſks, and amuſe themſelves by looking at the dancers. But in general they go maſked, and mix in an eaſy and familiar manner with the company.

I am not ſurpriſed that the Germans, eſpecially thoſe of high rank, are fond of maſquerades, being ſo much haraſſed with ceremony and form, and cramped by the diſtance which birth throws between people who may have a mutual regard for each other. I imagine they are glad to ſeize every opportunity of aſſuming the maſk and domino, that they may taſte the pleaſures of familiar converſation and ſocial mirth.——In company with the Duke of Hamilton, I once had the honour of dining at the houſe of a general officer. His ſiſter did the honours of the table; and on the Duke's expreſſing his ſurpriſe that he never had ſeen her at court, he was told ſhe could not poſſibly appear there, becauſe ſhe was not noble. This lady, however, was viſited at home by the Sovereign, and every family of diſtinction, all of whom regretted, that the eſtabliſhed cuſtom of their country deprived the court of a perſon whoſe character they valued ſo highly.

The General's rank in the army was a ſufficient paſſport for him, but was of no ſervice to his ſiſter; for this etiquette is obſerved very rigidly with reſpect to the natives of Germany, though it is greatly relaxed to ſtrangers, particularly the Engliſh, who they imagine have leſs regard for birth and title than any other nation.

Public diverſions of every kind are now over for ſome time, and the Court is at preſent very thin.—Duke Ferdinand reſides in the country. The Hereditary Prince went a few days ſince to Haberſtadt, where he will remain at leaſt a month, to prepare the garriſon, and his own regiment in particular, for the grand reviews which are ſoon to take place. Diligence in duty, and application to the diſciplining of the forces, are indiſpenſable in this ſervice. Without theſe, not all the King's partiality to this Prince, or his conſanguinity, could ſecure to him his uncle's favour for one day, perſonal talents and vigorous exertion being the ſole means of acquiring and retaining the favour of this ſteady and diſcerning monarch.

The Hereditary Princeſs has left Brunſwick, and is gone to Zell, and will remain during the abſence of her huſband with her ſiſter the Queen of Denmark.

The young Prince, Leopold, has alſo left the Court. He goes directly to Vienna, and it is thought he intends to offer his ſervices to the Emperor. If proper encouragement be given, he will go entirely into the Auſtrian ſervice. In this caſe, he will probably, when a war happens, find himſelf in oppoſition to his two brothers; a circumſtance not much regarded in Germany, where brothers go into different ſervices, with as little heſitation as into different regiments with us.

The ſtricteſt friendſhip has always ſubſiſted between this young man and his ſiſter, who has been crying almoſt without intermiſſion ſince he went away.

His mother bears this with more compoſure, yet her uneaſineſs is eaſier perceived.

ceived. Independent of the abſence of her ſon, ſhe is diſtreſſed at the idea of his going into a ſervice, where he may be obliged to act in oppoſition to her brother *, for whom I find ſhe has the greateſt affection, as well as the higheſt admiration.

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* Prince Leopold did not enter into the Auſtrian ſervice; but after having viſited Vienna, and made the tour of Italy, he returned to Brunſwick.——His uncle, the King of Pruſſia, ſoon after offering him the command of a regiment, he went into the ſervice of that monarch, in which he remained till the ſpring of the year 1785, when being witneſs to the devaſtation occaſioned by the overflowing of a river, unmoved by the entreaties of thoſe who endeavoured to diſſuade him from ſo hazardous an enterpriſe, he embarked in a ſmall boat with three watermen, to relieve the inhabitants of a village ſurrounded by the waters. But before he reached them the boat was drove with violence againſt a tree, and overſet; the three boatmen were ſaved. This amiable Prince alone, being carried down by the impetuoſity of the current, periſhed in the ſight of thoſe he attempted to preſerve, diſplaying in his death an heroic inſtance of that benevolence which had appeared conſpicuous through the whole of his life.

That ingenious artiſt Mr. Northcote, who ſo ſucceſsfully painted the wonderful eſcape of Captain Inglefield, has ſince, with equal, if not ſuperior energy, finiſhed a picture repreſenting the death of Prince Leopold of Brunſwick.

I was not ſurpriſed to hear her ſpeak of him as the greateſt man alive; but ſhe extends her eulogium to the qualities of his heart, in which ſhe is not joined by the opinion of all the world.—She, however, dwells particularly on this, calling him the worthieſt of men, the firmeſt friend, and the kindeſt of brothers:—and as ſhe founds her opinion on her own experience alone, ſhe has the greateſt reaſon to think as ſhe does; for, by every account, the King has always behaved with high regard and undeviating tenderneſs to her.

The departure of Prince Leopold has revived this Princeſs's affliction for the untimely fate of two of her ſons. One died in the Ruſſian camp at the end of the campaign of 1769, in which he had ſerved with great diſtinction as a volunteer; the other was killed in a ſkirmiſh towards the end of the laſt war; having received a ſhot in his throat, he died of the wound fifteen days after, much regretted by the army, who had formed a high idea of the riſing merit of this gallant youth.

He wrote a letter to his mother in the morning of the day on which he died. In this letter he regrets, that he ſhould be ſtopped ſo ſoon in the courſe of honour, and laments that he had not been killed in ſome memorable action, which would have ſaved his name from oblivion, or in atchieving ſomething worthy of the martial ſpirit of his family. He expreſſes ſatisfaction, however, that his memory would at leaſt be dear to ſome friends, and that he was certain of living in his mother's affections while ſhe ſhould exiſt. He then declares his gratitude to her for all her care and tenderneſs, and concludes with theſe expreſſions, which I tranſlate as near as I can remember—I wiſhed the Ducheſs to repeat them; but it was with difficulty, and eyes overflowing, that ſhe pronounced them once:—"My eyes grow dim—I can ſee no "longer—happy to have employed their "laſt light in expreſſing my duty to my "mother."

LETTER LIX.

Hanover.

THE Duke of Hamilton having determined to pay his reſpects to the Queen of Denmark, before he left this country, choſe to make his viſit while the Hereditary Princeſs was with her ſiſter.

I accompanied him to Zell, and next day waited on the Count and Counteſs Dean, to let them know of the Duke's arrival, and to be informed when we could have the honour of being preſented to the Queen. They both belong to the Princeſs of Brunſwick's family, and while I was at breakfaſt with them, her Royal Highneſs entered the room and gave me the information I wanted.

Before dinner, I returned with the Duke to the caſtle, where we remained till late in the evening. There was a concert of muſic between dinner and ſupper, and the Queen ſeemed in better ſpirits than could have been expected.

Zell is a ſmall town, without trade or manufactures; the houſes are old, and of a mean appearance, yet the high courts of appeal for all the territories of the Electoral Houſe of Brunſwick Lunenburg are held here; the inhabitants derive their principal means of ſubſiſtence from this circumſtance.

This town was ſeverely haraſſed by the French army at the beginning of the late war, and was afterwards pillaged, in revenge for the ſuppoſed infraction of the treaty of Cloſter-Seven. The Duke de Richlieu had his head-quarters here, when Duke Ferdinand re-aſſembled the troops who had been diſarmed and diſperſed immediately after that convention.

The caſtle is a ſtately building, ſurrounded by a moat, and ſtrongly fortified. It was formerly the reſidence of the Dukes of Zell, and was repaired lately by order of the King of Great Britain for the reception of his unfortunate ſiſter. The apartments are ſpacious and convenient, and now handſomely furniſhed.

The officers of the Court, the Queen's maids of honour, and other attendants, have a very genteel appearance, and retain the moſt reſpectful attachment to their ill-fated miſtreſs. The few days we remained at Zell were ſpent entirely at Court, where every thing ſeemed to be arranged in the ſtyle of the other ſmall German courts, and nothing wanting to render the Queen's ſituation as comfortable as circumſtances would admit. But by far her greateſt conſolation is the company and converſation of her ſiſter. Some degree of ſatisfaction appears in her countenance while the Princeſs remains at Zell; but the moment ſhe goes away, the Queen, as we were informed, becomes a prey to dejection and deſpondency. The Princeſs exerts herſelf to prevent this, and devotes to her ſiſter all the time ſhe can ſpare from the duties ſhe owes to her own family. Unlike thoſe who take the firſt pretext of breaking connections which can no longer be of advantage, this humane Princeſs has diſplayed even more attachment to her ſiſter ſince her misfortunes, than ſhe ever did while the Queen was in the meridian of her proſperity.

The youth, the agreeable countenance, and obliging manners of the Queen, have conciliated the minds of every one in this country. Though ſhe was in perfect health, and appeared cheerful, yet, convinced that her gaiety was aſſumed, and the effect of a ſtrong effort, I felt an impreſſion of melancholy, which it was not in my power to overcome all the time we remained at Zell.

From Zell we went to Hanover, and on the evening of our arrival, had the pleaſure of hearing Handel's Meſſiah performed. Some of the beſt company of this place were aſſembled on the occaſion, and we were here made acquainted with old Field-Marſhal Sporken, and other people of diſtinction. Hanover is a neat, thriving, and agreeable city. It has more the air of an Engliſh town than any other I have ſeen in Germany, and the Engliſh manners and cuſtoms gain ground every day among the inhabitants. The genial influence of freedom has extended from England to this place. Tyranny is not felt, and eaſe and ſatisfaction appear in the countenances of the citizens.

This town is regularly fortified, and all the works are in exceeding good order. The troops are ſober and regular, and perform every eſſential part of duty well, though the diſcipline is not ſo rigid as in ſome other parts of Germany. Marſhal

Sporken, who is the head of the army, is a man of humanity; and though the ſoldiers are ſeverely puniſhed for real crimes by the ſentence of a court martial, he does not permit his officers to order them to be caned for trifles. Caprice is too apt to blend itſelf with this method of puniſhing, and men of cruel diſpoſitions are prone to indulge this diabolical propenſity, under the pretence of zeal for diſcipline.

The Hanoverian infantry are not ſo tall as ſome of the other German troops, owing to this, that nobody is forced into the ſervice, the ſoldiers are all volunteers; whereas, in other parts of Germany, the Prince picks the ſtouteſt and talleſt of the peaſants, and obliges them to become ſoldiers. It is allowed, that in action no troops can behave better than the Hanoverians; and it is certain, that deſertion is not ſo frequent among them as among other German troops, which can only be accounted for by their not being preſſed into the ſervice, and their being more gently uſed when in it.

It is not the mode here at preſent, to lay ſo much ſtreſs on the tricks of the exerciſe as formerly. The officers in general ſeem to deſpiſe many minutiæ, which are thought of the higheſt importance in ſome other ſervices. It is incredible to what a ridiculous length this matter is puſhed by ſome.

At a certain parade, where the Sovereign himſelf was preſent, and many officers aſſembled, I once ſaw a corpulent general-officer ſtart ſuddenly, as if he had ſeen ſomething preternatural. He immediately waddled towards the ranks with all the expedition of a terrified gander. I could not conceive what had put his Excellency into a commotion ſo little ſuitable to his years and habit of body. While all the ſpectators were a-tiptoe to obſerve the iſſue of this phenomenon, he arrived at the ranks, and in great wrath, which probably had been augmented by the heat acquired in his courſe, he pulled off one of the ſoldier's hats, which it ſeems had not been properly cocked, and adjuſted it to his mind. Having regulated the military diſcipline in this important particular, he returned to the Prince's right-hand, with a ſtrut expreſſive of the higheſt ſelf-approbation.

Two days after our arrival here, I walked to Hernhauſen, along a magnificent avenue, as broad, and about double the length of the mall at St. James's. The houſe itſelf has nothing extraordinary in its appearance; but the gardens are as fine as gardens planned in the Dutch taſte, and formed on ground perfectly level, can be. The orangery is reckoned equal to any in Europe. Here is a kind of rural theatre, where plays may be acted during the fine weather. There is a ſpacious amphitheatre cut out in green ſeats for the ſpectators; a ſtage in the ſame taſte, with rows of trees for ſide-ſcenes, and a great number of arbours and ſummer-rooms, ſurrounded by lofty hedges, for the actors to retire and dreſs in.

When the theatre is illuminated, which is always done when maſquerades are given, it muſt have a very fine effect. The groves, arbours, and labyrinths, ſeem admirably calculated for all the purpoſes of this amuſement.

In theſe gardens are ſeveral large reſervoirs and fountains, and, on one ſide, a canal above a quarter of a mile in length. I have not ſeen the famous jet d'eau, as the water-works have not been played off ſince I came to Hanover. On the whole, we paſs our time very agreeably here. We have dined twice with Baron de Lenth, who has the chief direction of the affairs of this electorate, and at his houſe have met with the principal inhabitants. I make one of Marſhal Sporken's party every night at Whiſt, and paſs moſt of my time in the ſociety at his houſe.

The Duke of Hamilton having promiſed to meet ſome company at Brunſwick by a certain day, we ſhall ſet out for that place to-morrow—but have engaged to pay another viſit to Hanover before we go to Berlin.—My next therefore will be from Brunſwick, or poſſibly from this place after our return.

LETTER LX.

Hanover.

WE remained a week at Brunſwick, and returned to this town about ten days ago. None of the family are there at preſent, except the Duke and Ducheſs, and the young Princeſs, their daughter.

The character of the Sovereign, at every court, has great influence in forming the taſte and manners of courtiers. This muſt operate with increaſed force in the little courts of Germany, where the parties are brought nearer to each other, and ſpend the moſt part of their time together. The pleaſure which the Ducheſs of Brunſwick takes in ſtudy, has made reading very faſhionable among the ladies of that Court: of this her Royal Highneſs gave me a curious inſtance the laſt time I had the honour of ſeeing her.

A lady, whoſe education had been neglected in her youth, and who had arrived at a very ripe age without perceiving any inconveniency from the accident, had obtained, by the intereſt of ſome of her relations, a place at the Court of Brunſwick. She had not been long there, till ſhe perceived that the converſation in the Ducheſs's apartments frequently turned on ſubjects of which ſhe was entirely ignorant, and that thoſe ladies had moſt of her Royal Highneſs's ear, who were beſt acquainted with books. She regretted, for the firſt time, the neglect of her own education; and although ſhe had hitherto conſidered that kind of knowledge, which is derived from reading, as unbecoming a woman of quality, yet, as it was now faſhionable at Court, ſhe reſolved to ſtudy hard, that ſhe might get to the top of the mode as faſt as poſſible.

She mentioned this reſolution to the Ducheſs, deſiring, at the ſame time, that her Highneſs would lend her a book to begin. The Ducheſs applauded her deſign, and promiſed to ſend her one of the uſefulleſt books in her library—It was a French and German dictionary. Some days after, her Highneſs enquired how ſhe reliſhed the book. Infinitely, replied this ſtudious lady. —It is the moſt delightful book I ever ſaw. —The ſentences are all ſhort and eaſily underſtood, and the letters charmingly arranged in ranks, like ſoldiers on the parade; whereas, in ſome other books which I have ſeen, they are mingled together in a confuſed manner, like a mere mob, ſo that it is no pleaſure to look at them, and very difficult to know what they mean. But I am no longer ſurpriſed, added ſhe, at the ſatiſfaction your Royal Highneſs takes in ſtudy.

Since our return to Hanover, we have dined twice at the Palace. There is a houſehold eſtabliſhed with officers and ſervants, and the guard is regularly mounted, as at the time when the Electors reſided here conſtantly. The liveries of the pages and ſervants are the ſame with thoſe worn by the King's domeſtic ſervants at St. James's. Strangers of diſtinction are entertained at the Palace in a very magnificent manner. The firſt of the entertainments I ſaw was given to the Duke of Hamilton, and the other to young Prince George of Heſſe Darmſtadt, who arrived here a few days ſince, with Prince Erneſt and Prince Charles of Mecklenburg, brothers to the Queen of Great Britain, both of whom are in the Hanoverian ſervice.

Moſt of my time is ſpent, as formerly, at Marſhal Sporken's. The converſation of a man of ſenſe, who has been fifty years in the ſervice, and in high rank during a conſiderable part of that time, which led him into an intimacy with ſome of the moſt celebrated characters of the age, you may be ſure is highly intereſting. It affords me ſatisfaction to be informed from ſuch authority, of many tranſactions in the laſt war, the common accounts of which are often different, and ſometimes contradictory. The Marſhal's obſervations are ſenſible and candid, and his manner of converſing unreſerved. He ſerved with the late Marſhal Daun in the allied army, oppoſed to Marſhal Saxe, in the war 1741, and has many curious anecdotes illuſtrating the characters of ſome of the commanders who conducted the armies during that memorable period. He has a very high opinion of Duke Ferdinand's military character, and declares, that of all the Generals he ever ſerved under, that Prince ſeemed to him to have the beſt talents for conducting an army. He ſays, that as Prince Ferdinand had ſeldom held councils of war, or communicated to the Generals of his army any more of his plans than they were to execute, it was difficult for them to form a juſt opinion of his capacity, while they remained with the army immediately under his command; but that he (Marſhal Sporken) had ſometimes commanded a detached army, which obliged the Prince to be more communicative, and afforded the Marſhal the ſtrongeſt proofs of the depth of his judgment. Above all things, he admired the perſpicuity of his written inſtructions.——Theſe, he ſaid, were always accompanied with the moſt accurate and minute deſcription of the country through which he was to march, every village, rivulet, hollow, wood, or hill on the route, being diſtinctly particulariſed, and the moſt judicious conjectures concerning the enemy's deſigns added, with directions how to act in various probable emergencies.

Upon the whole, Marſhal Sporken ſeemed convinced that great part of the ſucceſs of the allies, during the late war in Weſtphalia, was owing to the foreſight, prudence, and ſagacity of their General. One memorable event, however, which has been cited as the moſt ſtriking proof of all theſe, he imagined was not ſo much owing to any of them, as to the perſonal valour of a few regiments, and the good conduct of ſome inferior officers. The Marſhal added, that his praiſes of Duke Ferdinand's military abilities did not proceed from private attachment, for he could claim no ſhare in his friendſhip; on the contrary, a miſunderſtanding had happened between them, on account of an incident at the ſiege of Caſſel, the particulars of which he recapitulated, and this miſunderſtanding was of a nature never to be made up.

The liberal, candid ſentiments of this venerable man carry conviction and command eſteem. He is reſpected by people of all ranks, and liſtened to like an oracle. In the ſociety generally to be found at the Marſhal's, there are ſome nearly of his own age, who formed the private parties of George the Second, as often as he came to viſit his native country. The memory of that monarch is greatly venerated here. I have heard his contemporaries of this ſociety relate a thouſand little anecdotes concerning him, which at once evinced the good diſpoſition of the King, and their own gratitude. From theſe accounts it appeared, that he was naturally of a very ſociable temper, and entirely laid aſide, when at Hanover, the ſtate and reſerve which he retained in England, living in that familiar and confidential manner which Princes, as well as peaſants, will aſſume in the company of thoſe they love, and who love them.

Not only the perſonal friends of that monarch ſpeak of him with regard; the ſame ſentiments prevail among all ranks of people in the Electorate. Nothing does more honour to his character, or can be a leſs equivocal proof of his equity, than his having governed theſe ſubjects, over whom he had an unlimited power, with as much juſtice and moderation as thoſe whoſe rights are guarded by law and a jealous conſtitution.

The two viſits I have made to Hanover, have confirmed the favourable impreſſion I had before received of the German character. One of the moſt diſagreeable circumſtances which attend travelling is, the being obliged to leave acquaintances after you have diſcovered their worth, and acquired ſome degree of their friendſhip. As the ſeaſon for the Pruſſian reviews now approaches, we have already taken leave of our friends, and are to ſet out to-morrow morning on our return to Brunſwick, that after remaining a few days there, we may ſtill get to Potſdam in proper time.

I ſhall not leave behind me every valuable acquaintance I have acquired ſince I came to Hanover.—We met, on our laſt arrival here, with Mr. Forteſcue, ſon of Lord Forteſcue. He has been of our parties ever ſince, and will accompany us to Brunſwick and Potſdam.

LETTER LXI.

Potſdam.

ON returning to Brunſwick, we found the Hereditary Princeſs had come from Zell a few days before, having left the Queen of Denmark in perfect health. The Princeſs reſided with her children at Antonettenruche, a villa a few miles from Brunſwick. She invited the Duke of Hamilton, Mr.Forteſcue, and me, to dine with her the day before we were to ſet out for Potſdam. That morning I chanced to take a very early walk in the gardens of the palace.—The Duke of Brunſwick was there.—He informed me, that an expreſs had arrived with news of the Queen of Denmark's death.—They had received accounts a few days before that ſhe had been ſeized with a putrid fever.—He ſaid that nobody

nobody in the town or court knew of this except his own family, and deſired that I would not mention it to the Princeſs, who, he knew, would be greatly affected; for he intended to ſend a perſon, after her company ſhould be gone, who would inform her of this event, with all its circumſtances.

When we went, we found the Princeſs in ſome anxiety about her ſiſter;—yet rather elated with the accounts ſhe had received that day by the poſt. She ſhowed us her letters.—They contained a general deſcription of the ſymptoms, and conveyed ſome hopes of the Queen's recovery. Unable to bear the idea of her ſiſter's death, ſhe wreſted every expreſſion into the moſt favourable ſenſe, and the company met her wiſhes, by confirming the interpretation ſhe gave. To me, who knew the truth, this ſcene was affecting and painful.

As we returned to Brunſwick in the evening, we met the gentleman who was commiſſioned by the Duke to impart the news of the Queen's death to her ſiſter.—We ſupped the ſame night at court, and took leave of this illuſtrious family.—The Ducheſs gave me a letter to her ſon, Prince Frederick, at Berlin, which ſhe ſaid would ſecure me a good reçeption at that capital.

On coming to the inn, we found a very numerous company, and the whole houſe reſounded with muſic and dancing. It is cuſtomary all over Germany, after a marriage of citizens, to give the wedding-feaſt at an inn. As there was no great chance of our being much refreſhed by ſleep that night, inſtead of going to bed, we ordered poſt-horſes, and left Brunſwick about three in the morning.

We arrived the ſame afternoon at Magdeburg. The country all the way is perfectly level. The Duchy of Magdeburg produces fine cattle, and a conſiderable quantity of corn, thoſe parts which are not marſhy, and over-grown with wood, being very fertile. I have ſeen few or no incloſures in this, or any part of Germany, except ſuch as ſurround the gardens or parks of Princes.

The King of Pruſſia has a ſeat in the diet of the empire, as Duke of Magdeburg. The capital, which bears the ſame name with the duchy, is a very conſiderable town, well-built and ſtrongly fortified. There are manufactories here of cotton and linen goods, of ſtockings, gloves, and tobacco; but the principal are thoſe of woollen and ſilk.

The German woollen cloths are, in general, much inferior to the Engliſh and French. The Pruſſian officers, however, aſſert, that the dark blue cloth made here, and in other parts of the King of Pruſſia's dominions, though coarſer, wears better, and has a more decent appearance when long worn, than the fineſt cloth manufactured in England or France.—Thus much is certain, that the Pruſſian blue is preferable to any other cloth made in Germany.—The town of Magdeburg is happily ſituated for trade, having an eaſy communication with Hamburg by the Elbe, and lying on the road between Upper and Lower Germany. It is alſo the ſtrongeſt place belonging to his Pruſſian Majeſty, and where his principal magazines and founderies are eſtabliſhed. In time of war, it is the repoſitory of whatever he finds neceſſary to place out of the reach of ſudden inſult.

Places where any extraordinary event has happened, even though they ſhould have nothing elſe to diſtinguiſh them, intereſt me more than the moſt flouriſhing country, or fineſt town which has never been the ſcene of any thing memorable. Fancy, awakened by the view of the former, inſtantly gives ſhape and features to men we have never ſeen.—We hear them ſpeak, and ſee them act; the paſſions are excited, the mind amuſed; the houſes, the rivers, the fields around ſupplying the abſence of the poet and hiſtorian, and reſtoring with new energy the whole ſcene to the mind.

While croſſing the Elbe at this town with the Duke of Hamilton, I recalled to his memory the dreadful tragedy which was acted here by the Auſtrian General Tilly, who, having taken this town by ſtorm, delivered up the citizens, without diſtinction of age or ſex, to the barbarity and luſt of his ſoldiers. Beſides the general maſſacre, they exhibited ſuch acts of wanton cruelty, as diſgrace human nature. We viewed, with a lively ſympathy, that part of the river where three or four hundred of the inhabitants got over and made their eſcape:—all that were ſaved out of twenty thouſand citizens!

This ſad cataſtrophe ſupplied us with converſation for great part of this day's journey. It is unneceſſary to comment on an event of this kind to a perſon of the Duke's ſenſibility.—Proper reflections ariſe ſpontaneouſly in a well-formed mind from the ſimple narrative.

The country is well cultivated, and fertile, for about two leagues beyond Magdeburg; afterwards it becomes more barren, and within a few leagues of Brandenburg, it is as naked and ſandy as the deſarts of Arabia.

Brandenburg, from which the whole Electorate takes its name, is but a ſmall town, divided into Old and New by a river, which ſeparates the fort from both, The principal trade is carried on by ſome French woollen manufacturers, whom the King has encouraged to reſide at this town. The whole number of inhabitants does not amount to more than 1500.

On entering the Pruſſian garriſon towns, you are ſtopped at the gate; the officer of the guard aſks your name, whence you come, whither you are going? and takes your anſwers down in writing. This is done in the French garriſons alſo, but not with the ſame degree of form and accuracy.

When the title of Duke is given, the guard generally turns out under arms. As for Milord, it is a title treated with very little ceremony, either in France or Germany. It is often aſſumed in foreign countries by thoſe who have no right to it, and given to every Engliſhman of a decent appearance. But Duke, in Germany, implies a Sovereign, and is more reſpectable than Prince. Every ſon of a Duke in this country, is called Prince, although he had as many as old King Priam.

We arrived laſt night at Potſdam, which important piece of news, you will pleaſe to obſerve, I have taken the earlieſt opportunity of communicating.

LETTER LXII.

Potſdam.

THE day after our arrival here, I waited on the Count Finkenſtein, and deſired to know when the Duke of Hamilton and I could have the honour of being preſented to the King, requeſting, at the ſame time, the liberty of attending at the reviews. I was not a little ſurpriſed when this miniſter told me, that I muſt write a letter to his Majeſty, informing him of that requeſt, and that I ſhould certainly receive an anſwer the day following. It appeared very ſingular to write to ſo great a Prince upon an affair of ſuch ſmall importance; but the Count told me this was the eſtabliſhed rule. So I immediately did as I was deſired.

Next morning one of the court-ſervants called for me at the inn, and delivered a ſealed letter addreſſed to me, and ſigned by the King, importing, that as the court would ſoon be at Berlin, the miniſter in waiting there would let the Duke of Hamilton and Mr. Moore know when they might be preſented, and that they were very welcome to attend at all the reviews.

In the evening we were preſented to the Prince and Princeſs of Pruſſia, who reſide almoſt conſtantly at Potſdam. He is a tall, ſtout-made, handſome man, of about thirty-five years of age. The Princeſs is of the family of Heſſe Darmſtadt, and has a great reſemblance to her aunt, whom we had ſeen at Carlſruche. We have had the honour of ſupping with them twice during the few days we have been at Potſdam.

The Prince and all the officers have been employed every morning in preparing for the reviews. Yeſterday, for the ſecond time, there were ſeven thouſand men reviewed by the King. The Prince of Pruſſia's ſon, a child of ſix or ſeven years old, was preſent on foot with his tutor, and unattended by any officer or ſervant. They mingled without any mark of diſtinction among the other ſpectators. I mentioned my ſurpriſe at this to the tutor. In France, ſaid he, it would be otherwiſe: the Dauphin, at the age of this child, would be carried to the review in a coach, with a troop of muſqueteers to attend him; but here, the King and Prince are equally deſirous that their ſucceſſor ſhould be brought up in a hardy manner, and without any ſtrong impreſſion of his own importance. Sentiments of that kind will come ſoon enough, in ſpite of all the pains that can be taken to exclude them.

The troops were drawn up in one line along the ſummits of ſome hills. From this ſituation they deſcended over very unequal and rough ground, firing in grand diviſions all the way, till they came to the plain, where they went through various evolutions. But as we were to ſet out in a little time for Berlin, where the grand reviews of that garriſon are to take place, I ſhall ſay no more on the ſubject of reviews till then.

Our mornings, ſince we came hither, have always been paſſed with the troops in the field. The forenoons we have ſpent in looking at every thing curious in the town. The houſes are built of a fine white freeſtone, almoſt all of them new, and nearly of the ſame height. The ſtreets are regular and well-paved, and there are ſome very magnificent public buildings; ſo that Potſdam has every requiſite to form an agreeable town, if by that word is meant the ſtreets, ſtone-walls, and external appearance. But if a more complex idea be annexed to the word, and if it be thought to comprehend the finiſhing, furniture, and conveniencies within the houſes, in that caſe Potſdam is a very poor town indeed.

The King having expreſſed a great inclination to ſee this town increaſe, ſeveral monied people built houſes, partly to pay their court to his Majeſty, and partly becauſe, by letting them, they found they would receive very good intereſt for their money. But as the town did not augment ſo quickly as he wiſhed, his Majeſty ordered ſeveral ſtreets to be built at once, at his own expence. This immediately ſunk the value of houſes, and the firſt builders found they had diſpoſed of their money very injudiciouſly.

Towns generally are formed by degrees, as the inhabitants increaſe in numbers; and houſes are built larger and more commodious as they increaſe in riches; for men's ideas of conveniency enlarge with their wealth. But here the matter is reverſed;

the houſes are reared in the firſt place, in hopes that their fair outſides, like the nymphs of Circe, will allure travellers, and attract inhabitants. Hitherto their power of attraction has not been ſtrong; for few towns are worſe inhabited than Potſdam, though the houſes are let to merchants and trades-people at very ſmall rents.

I was not a little ſurpriſed, while I walked through the town, to ſee buff-belts, breeches, and waiſtcoats, hanging to dry from the genteeleſt looking houſes, till I was informed, that each houſekeeper has two or more ſoldiers quartered in his houſe, and their apartments are, for the moſt part, on the firſt floor, with windows to the ſtreet; which I am told is alſo the caſe at Berlin. The King chooſes that his ſoldiers ſhould be quartered with the citizens, rather than in barracks. This ought to be a ſufficient anſwer to thoſe military gentlemen, who inſiſt on building barracks for the ſoldiers in Britain, upon the ſuppoſition, that our army cannot be well diſciplined without them. For it could ſcarcely be expected, or wiſhed, that the Britiſh army were under more rigid diſcipline than the Pruſſian.

I imagine the Pruſſian ſoldiers are quartered in private houſes rather than barracks, from conſiderations diametrically oppoſite to thoſe which produce the ſame effect in England.—The Britiſh parliament have always ſhown an averſion to lodging the military in barracks, and have preferred quartering them in the citizens' houſes, that a connection and good-will may be cultivated between the ſoldiers and their fellow-citizens; and that the former may not conſider themſelves as a diſtinct body of men, with a ſeparate intereſt from the reſt of the community, and whoſe duty it is implicitly to obey the will of the crown at all times, and upon all occaſions.

Whereas here it may not be thought expedient to lodge great bodies of armed men together in barracks, leſt they ſhould, during the night, form combinations deſtructive of diſcipline, and dangerous to government. This cannot happen in the day-time, becauſe then the officers are preſent, and the ſoldiers are not allowed even to ſpeak to each other when under arms; and while off duty, their time is wholly filled up in cleaning their arms, accoutrements, and clothes, and preparing for the next guard.—I imagine theſe may be part, at leaſt, of the reaſons which induce the King of Pruſſia to prefer quartering his men in private houſes; for in all other reſpects, lodging them together in barracks would be more convenient, and more agreeable to the genius of his government.

The palace at Potſdam, or what they call the caſtle, is a very noble building, with magnificent gardens adjacent. I ſhall not trouble you with a deſcription of either, only it ſtruck me as a thing rather uncommon in a palace, to find the ſtudy by far the fineſt apartment in it. The ornaments of this are of maſſy ſilver. The writing-deſk, the embelliſhments of the table, and the accommodations for the books, were all in fine taſte.

The perſon who attended us, aſked if we had any deſire to ſee his Majeſty's wardrobe?—On being anſwered in the affirmative, he conducted us to the chamber where the monarch's clothes are depoſited; it had a very different appearance from his library. The whole wardrobe conſiſted of two blue coats, faced with red, the lining of one a little torn;—two yellow waiſtcoats, a good deal ſoiled with Spaniſh ſnuff;—three pair of yellow breeches, and a ſuit of blue velvet, embroidered with ſilver, for grand occaſions.

I imagined at firſt, that the man had got a few of the King's old clothes, and kept them here to amuſe ſtrangers; but, upon enquiry, I was aſſured, that what I have mentioned, with two ſuits of uniform which he has at Sans-Souci, form the entire wardrobe of the King of Pruſſia. Our attendant ſaid, he had never known it more complete. As for the velvet ſuit, it was about ten years of age, and ſtill enjoyed all the vigour of youth. Indeed, if the moths ſpared it as much as his Majeſty has done, it may laſt the age of Methuſalem.— In the ſame room, are ſome ſtandards belonging to the cavalry. Inſtead of the uſual ſquare flag, two or three of theſe have the figures of eagles in carved ſilver fixed on a pole.

In the bed-chamber where the late King died, at the lower part of the window which looks into the garden, four panes have been removed, and a piece of glaſs, equal in ſize to all the four, ſupplies their place. We were informed that his late Majeſty's ſupreme delight through life had been to ſee his troops exerciſe, and that he had retained this paſſion till his laſt breath. When he was confined to his room by his laſt illneſs, he uſed to ſit and view them through the window, which had been framed in this manner, that he might enjoy theſe dying contemplations with the greater conveniency. Becoming gradually weaker, by the increaſing diſtemper, he could not ſit, but was obliged to lie on a couch through the day. When at any time he was uncommonly languid, they raiſed his head to the window, and a ſight of the men under arms was perceived to operate like a cordial, and revive his ſpirits.—By frequent repetition, however, even this cordial loſt its effect.—His eyes became dim—when his head was raiſed, he could no longer perceive the ſoldiers, and he expired.

This was feeling the ruling paſſion as ſtrong in death as any man ever felt it.

LETTER LXIII.

Potſdam.

I Have been twice or thrice at Sans-Souci, which is at a ſmall diſtance from Potſdam. The King lives conſtantly at the Old Palace, except when ſome people of very great diſtinction come to reſide with him for ſome days. He then receives them at the New Palace, and remains there himſelf during their ſtay.

The gallery contains a great collection of paintings, ſome of them originals, highly eſteemed.—The moſt valuable are of the Flemiſh ſchool.—Some people who paſs for connoiſſeurs, and for aught I know may be what they pretend, aſſert, that the King has not a juſt taſte in painting, which appears by his purchaſing a great many very indifferent pictures. Whatever may be in that, it is certain that his Majeſty does not give the leaſt importance to the opinion of theſe connoiſſeurs; but buys, admires, and avows his admiration of ſuch pieces as appear excellent in his own eyes, without regarding what they or others may think. It has no weight with him, that the piece is ſaid to be by Raphael, Guido, or Corregio. If he ſees no beauty in it, he ſays ſo, and without ceremony prefers the work of a modern or obſcure painter.

This is conſidered by many critics in painting as blaſphemy, and ſhocks them more than any other ſpecies of impiety. A painter and great connoiſſeur, whom the King had diſguſted, by rejecting ſome pictures of his recommending, and by purchaſing others which he had condemned, ſaid (ſpeaking of the King), The man imagines, becauſe he can play on the German flute, and has been praiſed by a parcel of poets and philoſophers, and has gained ten or a dozen battles, that therefore he underſtands painting; but fighting battles is one thing, and a true knowledge of painting is another, and that he will find to his coſt.

A few years after the late war, the King of Pruſſia began to build the new palace of Sans-Souci, which is now completely finiſhed, and is certainly a very noble and ſplendid work. The offices are at a conſiderable diſtance, and are joined to the body of the palace by a double colonnade, which has a very grand effect. The front of the palace ſeems rather crowded, by the great number of ſtatues which are intended to ornament it. Theſe are generally in groups, repreſenting ſome ſtory from Ovid. This building has a cupola, terminated by a large crown, ſupported by the three Graces. The Duke of Hamilton obſerved, that three Pruſſian grenadiers would have been more ſuitable. On the ground-floor, in the middle, there is a large hall, whoſe floor, ſides, and roof, are all of marble. It is called the grotto, and the ornaments correſpond with that name. This room can be agreeable only when the weather is exceſſively hot. In Italy it would be delightful. The roof of this hall is low, and vaulted, and ſupports another room in all reſpects of the ſame dimenſions, only higher. This ſecond room is alſo lined with beautiful marble. The other apartments are adorned with rich furniture and paintings, all very ſhowy. Many people think them gaudy.—It muſt be owned, that the gilding is laid on with a very laviſh hand.

Oppoſite to the old palace of Sans-Souci, and immediately without the gardens, Lord Marechal has built a houſe, where he conſtantly reſides. You are well acquainted with the amiable character of this nobleman. We waited on him ſoon after our arrival, and have dined with him ſeveral times ſince. On the front of his houſe is this inſcription:

FREDERICUS II. NOBIS HÆC OTIA FECIT.

Adjoining to this houſe is a ſmall garden, with a door which communicates with the King's garden of Sans-Souci, ſo that his Lordſhip has the full enjoyment of theſe gardens. The King has alſo a key to my Lord's little garden, and frequently walks by this paſſage to viſit him.

We ſet out for Berlin to-morrow. Adieu.

LETTER LXIV.

Berlin.

WE arrived here in the height of the preparation for the reviews. Nothing was to be ſeen in the ſtreets but ſoldiers parading, and officers hurrying backwards and forwards. The town looked more like the cantonment of a great army, than the capital of a kingdom in the time of profound peace. The Court itſelf reſembled the levee of a General in the field —except the foreign miniſters, and a few ſtrangers, every man there (for there were no women) was dreſſed in a military uniform.

Mr. Harris, the Britiſh miniſter, attended the Duke of Hamilton the day we were preſented to the King. A ſon of Prince

Kaunitz's, and ſome other ſtrangers, were preſented at the ſame time. The Count Reuſe, chamberlain of the Court, named each perſon to his Majeſty as he approached. He converſed a conſiderable time with the Duke, and ſpoke a few words to every perſon who was preſented.—His countenance and manner are exceedingly animated.—He ſeemed that day in very high ſpirits, and ſpoke to all his officers in an eaſy ſtyle, and with a kind of gay affability. On their part, they appear before their maſter with an erect military boldneſs, free from that cringing addreſs which prevails in many Courts, but would not ſucceed here.

The King was three days at Berlin before the reviews began, and paſſed ſome hours every morning in the park, where there were four or five thouſand men ordered daily, not to be exerciſed, but ſimply that the King might examine the ſtate of each corps in particular: and it is incredible with what accuracy and minute attention he did examine them, the Colonel of the regiment under ſcrutiny walking along with him, to anſwer any queſtion, and hear his directions and remarks. By this exactneſs, he not only knows the condition of the army in general, but the appearance, degree of diſcipline, and ſtrength of each regiment.

The whole number reviewed was about thirty-ſix or thirty-eight thouſand, conſiſting of the garriſon of Berlin, and troops from ſome of the adjacent towns and villages. This army was in the field three mornings ſucceſſively, and the operations were different each day. I ſhall endeavour to give you an idea of the plan of the laſt day's review, which is freſheſt in my memory.

At break of day, about eight thouſand men marched out of Berlin, under the command of a general officer, and took poſſeſſion of a village, ſituated on a riſing ground, at the diſtance of two or three miles. About an hour after, the King himſelf joined the army, which was aſſembled without the gates. He divided it into three columns. Two general officers took the command of two of them; he himſelf led the third. The whole marched by three different routes towards the village, where the former detachment had now taken poſt. In the attack and defence of this village the review conſiſted.

As the army advanced, they were cannonaded from the village, but could not be ſuppoſed to ſuffer much, becauſe the leader of each column advanced with caution, taking ſuch circuits as expoſed the men very little.

At length the three columns met on a large plain near the village, but protected from the batteries by a riſing of the ground. Here the King formed the army into two lines. While this was doing, they were perfectly ſecure; but they could not advance towards the village otherwiſe than by going over the ſwell in the ground, and being expoſed to all the cannon of the enemy. This was to be performed, therefore, with as much expedition as could be conſiſtent with good order. The right wing of the army made the attack. As ſoon as the ſignal was given, all the drums and fifes ſtruck up at once. The ſoldiers advanced with a rapid pace. A numerous train of large field-pieces, placed at proper intervals, advanced with equal velocity, and kept in a line with the front rank. The rapidity with which they were charged and diſcharged, as they advanced, was quite aſtoniſhing. When the line came within a proper diſtance of the village, the ſoldiers began to uſe their firelocks. In the mean time there was a furious cannonade, and diſcharge of ſmall ſhot from the village. The King was between the advancing line and the village during the attack. When they had got very near the hedges, a new battery opened from the village. The King gave a ſignal, and the firſt line broke, fell into an artificial confuſion, and gave back towards the ſecond line, which opened at ſeveral places, and cloſed again the moment the retreating line had pierced through. The ſecond line then moved to the attack, as the former had done. This alſo ſeemed to be repulſed—a retreat was ſounded, and the whole wing began to retire. A body of cavalry then appeared from the village, and were advancing to charge the retreating army, but were themſelves charged, and driven back, by the cavalry of the right wing.

A body of huſſars purſued alſo from the village, and haraſſed the retreating army. Theſe were ſometimes repulſed by the ſoldiers, who turned and fired on them, and ſometimes by detached parties of cavalry, which drove them away.

Theſe various operations laſted from five in the morning till noon, when the troops returned to Berlin.—It is hardly poſſible for any words of mine to convey an adequate idea of the perfect manner in which theſe evolutions were executed. The charges made by the cavalry were praiſed by the King himſelf. I had never ſeen ſo great a body together, and had no idea that it was poſſible to charge at full gallop, and keep the ranks and diſtances ſo exactly as they did.

Upon the principle, that velocity is equal to weight, they endeavour to compenſate for the lightneſs of the horſes by the quickneſs of their motion. The huſſars in the Pruſſian army are taught, not only to haraſs a retreating army in detached parties, but to charge like heavy cavalry in a large body. The late General Seidlitz, who had the reputation of being the beſt officer of cavalry in Europe, brought the Pruſſian dragoons to a wonderful degree of perfection, and it is ſaid that he gained the battle of Roſbach by one briſk charge. Ever ſince, the King of Pruſſia has beſtowed great attention on his cavalry. They are now habituated to charge in large bodies, and at full ſpeed.

The cuiraſſiers are the flower of the Pruſſian army. They are dreſſed in buff coats, and wear very heavy iron breaſt-plates, which cover all the fore-part of the body, and have been tried by muſket-ſhot before they are delivered to the men.

I neglected to mention, that the infantry were ordered to ſhout as they advanced to the attack on the village, and that this practice is adopted by the Pruſſians in actual ſervice. The King, as I am informed, is of opinion, that this keeps up the ſpirits of the men, and prevents them from reflecting on the danger of their ſituation. There are a greater proportion of drummers in the Pruſſian ſervice than in moſt others:

a regulation, in all probability, founded on the ſame principle.

The evening after the reviews, there were a concert and ſupper at Prince Henry's palace. The Queen was preſent, and the King's brothers, Henry himſelf, and Ferdinand, with their Princeſſes; alſo the Prince and Princeſs of Pruſſia, Prince Frederick of Brunſwick and his Princeſs, and a numerous company. I here delivered to Prince Frederick the letter I had brought from his mother, who I found had before apprized him of my intention to go to Berlin.

The King himſelf was not preſent. He ſeldom appears at feſtivals. All his hours, not employed in buſineſs, he ſpends in reading, or in the ſociety of a few people whom he eſteems. The Hereditary Prince of Brunſwick is at preſent the King's moſt conſtant companion, a choice which does not more honour to the Prince than to the King's diſcernment.

Prince Henry's palace is one of the moſt magnificent buildings in Berlin. No ſubject of the King of Pruſſia lives in a more ſumptuous manner than this Prince, who keeps a numerous eſtabliſhment of ſervants, moſtly handſome young men, very richly dreſſed. The entertainment on this occaſion was remarkably ſplendid.

LETTER LXV.

Berlin.

THE day after the reviews, the King, attended by his nephew, the Prince of Pruſſia, and the Hereditary Prince of Brunſwick, ſet out for Magdeburg, where there is a camp of 15,000 men. He afterwards will proceed to Sileſia, and his new acquired dominions in Poland, and is not expected at Potſdam for ſix weeks at leaſt.

His Majeſty makes the ſame circuit twice every year.—Surely no King in Europe can have ſuch a thorough knowledge of his dominions and ſubjects as this monarch.—His abſence from Berlin has made but little relaxation in the duty, and none in the diſcipline, of the troops. The reviews were ſcarcely over, when field-days began. There are 1500 or 2000 of the troops belonging to this garriſon, exerciſed in the park almoſt every morning, beſides thoſe who appear on the parade for the ordinary guards.

A review, ſuch as that which I endeavoured to deſcribe, is undoubtedly one of the fineſt ſhows that can be exhibited: but when a ſpectator of ſenſibility reflects on the means by which theſe poor fellows are brought to this wonderful degree of accuracy, he will pay a ſevere tax for this ſplendid exhibition.—The Pruſſian diſcipline on a general view is beautiful; in detail it is ſhocking.

When the young ruſtic is brought to the regiment, he is at firſt treated with a degree of gentleneſs; he is inſtructed by words only how to walk, and to hold up his head, and to carry his firelock, and he is not puniſhed, though he ſhould not ſucceed in his earlieſt attempts:—they allow his natural awkwardneſs and timidity to wear off by degrees:—they ſeem cautious of confounding him at the beginning, or driving him to deſpair, and take care not to pour all the terrors of their diſcipline upon his aſtoniſhed ſenſes at once. When he has been a little familiariſed to his new ſtate, he is taught the exerciſe of the firelock, firſt alone, and afterwards with two or three of his companions. This is not entruſted to a corporal or ſerjeant; it is the duty of a ſubaltern officer. In the park at Berlin, every morning may be ſeen the Lieutenants of the different regiments exerciſing, with the greateſt aſſiduity, ſometimes a ſingle man, at other times three or four together; and now, if the young recruit ſhows neglect or remiſſneſs, his attention is rouſed by the officer's cane, which is applied with augmenting energy, till he has acquired the full command of his firelock.

lock.—He is taught ſteadineſs under arms, and the immobility of a ſtatue;—he is informed, that all his members are to move only at the word of command, and not at his own pleaſure:—that ſpeaking, coughing, ſneezing, are all unpardonable crimes; and when the poor lad is accompliſhed to their mind, they give him to underſtand, that now it is perfectly known what he can do, and therefore the ſmalleſt deficiency will be puniſhed with rigour. And although he ſhould deſtine every moment of his time, and all his attention, to cleaning his arms, taking care of his clothes, and practiſing the manual exerciſe, it is but barely poſſible for him to eſcape puniſhment; and if his captain happens to be of a capricious or cruel diſpoſition, the ill-fated ſoldier loſes the poor chance of that poſſibility.

As for the officers, they are not indeed ſubjected to corporal puniſhment, but they are obliged to beſtow as unremitting attention on duty as the men. The ſubalterns are almoſt conſtantly on guard, or exerciſing the recruits: the Captain knows, that he will be blamed by his Colonel, and can expect no promotion, if his company be not as perfect as the others: the Colonel entirely loſes the King's favour if his regiment ſhould fail in any particular: the General is anſwerable for the diſcipline of the brigade, or garriſon. under his immediate command. The King will not be ſatisfied with the General's report on that ſubject, but muſt examine every thing himſelf; ſo that from his Majeſty, down to the common centinel, every individual is alert. And as the King, who is the chief ſpring and primum mobile of the whole, never relaxes, the faculties of every ſubordinate perſon are kept in conſtant exertion: the conſequence of which is, that the Pruſſian army is the beſt diſciplined, and the readieſt for ſervice at a minute's warning, of any now in the world, or perhaps that ever was in it. Other monarchs have attempted to carry diſcipline to the ſame degree of perfection, and have begun this plan with aſtoniſhing eagerneſs. But a little time and new objects have blunted their keenneſs, and divided their attention. They have then delegated the execution to a commander in chief, he to another of inferior rank, and thus a certain degree of relaxation having once taken place, ſoon pervades the whole ſyſtem; but the perſeverance of the King of Pruſſia is without example, and is perhaps the moſt remarkable part of his extraordinary character.

That degree of exertion which a man of a vigorous mind is capable of making on ſome very important occaſion, the King of Pruſſia has made for thirty years at a ſtretch, without permitting pleaſure, indolence, diſguſt, or diſappointment, to interrupt his plan for a ſingle day.—And he has obliged every perſon through the various departments of his government to make, as far as their characters and ſtrength could go, the ſame exertions.—I leave you to judge in what manner ſuch a man muſt be ſerved, and what he is capable of performing.

LETTER LXVI.

Berlin.

NO condition in life can be more active, and at the ſame time have leſs variety in it, than that of a Pruſſian officer in the time of peace. He is continually employed in the ſame occupation, and continually occupied in the ſame place. There is no rotation of the troops as in the Britiſh ſervice. The regiments which were placed in Berlin, Magdeburg, Schweidnitz, and the other garriſons at the concluſion of the war, remain there ſtill. It is dreaded, that if they were occaſionally moved from one garriſon to another, the foreigners in the ſervice, who are exceedingly prone to deſertion, might then find opportunities, which according to the preſent plan they cannot: for however deſirous a Pruſſian ſoldier may be to deſert, the thing is almoſt impoſſible. The moment a man is miſſing, a certain number of cannons are fired, which announce the deſertion to the whole country. The peaſants have a conſiderable reward for ſeizing a deſerter, and are liable to ſevere penalties if they harbour, or aid him in making his eſcape, and parties from the garriſons are ſent after him in every direction.

As none of the ſoldiers are ever allowed to go without the walls of the town, it requires great addreſs to get over this firſt difficulty; and when they have been ſo far fortunate, many chances remain againſt their eſcaping through the Pruſſian dominions; and even when they arrive ſafe in any of the neighbouring ſtates,

> Nunc eadem fortuna viros tot caſibus actos
> Inſequitur *.

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* The ſame fate awaits them there, after all the dangers they have eſcaped.

For there they will probably be obliged to inliſt again as ſoldiers; ſo that on the whole, however unhappy they may be, it is abſurd to attempt deſertion in any other way than by killing themſelves, which method, as I am told, begins to prevail.

In conſequence of their remaining conſtantly in the ſame place, converſing always with the ſame people, and being employed uniformly in the ſame buſineſs, the Pruſſian officers acquire a ſtaid, ſerious appearance, exceedingly different from the gay, diſſipated, degagé air of Britiſh or French officers. Their only amuſement, or relaxation from the duties of their profeſſion, ſeems to be walking on the parade, and converſing with each other. The inferior officers, thus deprived of opportunities of mixing in general ſociety, and not having time for ſtudy, can have no very extenſive range of ideas. Their knowledge, it muſt be confeſſed, is pretty much confined to that branch of tactics in which they are ſo much employed; and many of them at length ſeem to think, that to ſtand firm and ſteady, to march erect, to wheel to the right and left, and to charge and diſcharge a firelock, if not the ſole uſe of human creatures, is at leaſt the chief end of their creation.

The King, as I have been informed, has no inclination that they ſhould reaſon on a larger compaſs of thought, which might poſſibly lead them to deſpiſe their daily employment of drilling ſoldiers, counting the buttons of their coats, and examining the ſtate of their ſpatterdaſhes and breeches. For as ſoon as men's minds become ſuperior to their buſineſs, the buſineſs will not be ſo well performed. Some application to other ſtudies, and opportunities of mixing with a more general ſociety, might make them more agreeable men, but not better captains, lieutenants, and adjutants.

His Majeſty imagines he will always find a ſufficient number of men of a more liberal turn of mind, and more extenſive notions, for officers of great truſt and ſeparate commands, where the general muſt act according to emergencies, and the light of his own underſtanding. He believes alſo, that this general ſyſtem will not deprive him of the advantage of particular exceptions, or prevent genius from being diſtinguiſhed, when it exiſts in the humbleſt ſpheres of his ſervice. As often, therefore, as he obſerves any dawnings of this kind; when any officer, or even ſoldier, diſcovers uncommon talents, or an extenſive capacity, he is ſure to be advanced, and placed in a ſituation where his abilities may have a full power of exertion; while thoſe muſt ſtand ſtill, or be moved by a very ſlow gradation, who have no other merit to depend on for promotion but aſſiduity alone, which, in the Pruſſian ſervice, can never conduct to that rank in the army, where other qualifications are wanted.

As to the common men, the leading idea of the Pruſſian diſcipline is to reduce them, in many reſpects, to the nature of machines; that they may have no volition of their own, but be actuated ſolely by that of their officers; that they may have ſuch a ſuperlative dread of thoſe officers as annihilates all fear of the enemy; and that they may move forwards when ordered, without deeper reaſoning or more concern than the firelocks they carry along with them.

Conſidering the length to which this ſyſtem is carried, it were to be wiſhed that it could be carried ſtill further, and that thoſe unhappy men, while they retained the faculties of hearing and obeying orders, could be deprived of every other kind of feeling.

The common ſtate of ſlavery in Aſia, or that to which people of civil profeſ-

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ſions in the moſt deſpotic countries are ſubject, is freedom in compariſon of this kind of military ſlavery. The former are not continually under the eyes of their tyrants, but for long intervals of time may enjoy life without reſtraint, and as their taſte dictates; but all the foreign ſoldiers in this ſervice, and thoſe of the natives, who are ſuſpected of any intention to deſert, and conſequently never allowed furloughs, are always under the eye of ſomebody, who has the power, and too often the inclination, to controul every action of their bodies, and every deſire of their hearts.

Since ſuch a number of men all over Europe are doomed to this ſtate of conſtraint, it is much to be lamented that, from the nature of the ſervice, the doom ſhould fall on the uſeful, induſtrious peaſantry, who, when uncontrolled by cruel and abſurd policy, paſs their days in cheerfulneſs, taſting every real pleaſure without the nauſea of ſatiety, or the ſtings of remorſe, and perhaps, of all mankind, have the greateſt enjoyment of life. The ſum-total of happineſs, deſtroyed by removing men from this ſituation into a ſtate of miſery, muſt be infinitely greater than if many of the uſeleſs, wealthy, and luxurious could be tranſlated into the ſame ſtate. This would not be annihilating happineſs, but only ſhifting the ſcene of the wretched. Such recruits would only be haraſſed by the caprices of others inſtead of their own;—plagued with the manual exerciſe, inſtead of being tortured by peeviſhneſs and diſguſt;—laid up in conſequence of running the gantlet, inſtead of being laid up with the gout;—and, finally, knocked down by a cannon-ball, inſtead of being killed by a fit of the apoplexy or a ſurfeit.

LETTER LXVII.

Berlin.

INSTEAD of troubling you with any more obſervations of my own, on the nature of the Pruſſian diſcipline, or the principles on which it is founded, I ſhall give you the ſubſtance of ſome converſations I have had on that ſubject with a Pruſſian officer of character.

Walking one morning in the park, we ſaw a poor fellow ſmartly caned, for no other reaſon, but becauſe he did not return the ram-rod into his piece with ſo much celerity as the reſt of the platoon. I turned away with indignation from the ſight, which the officer obſerving, ſaid, You think the puniſhment too ſevere for the crime!—There was no crime, ſaid I;

the ram-rod ſlipt through his fingers by accident, and it is not poſſible to imagine, that the man had any intention to perform this important motion leſs rapidly than his comrades. Every thing muſt be conſidered as of importance by a ſoldier, replied my Pruſſian acquaintance, which his officer orders him to do. In all probability, the fault was involuntary; but it is not always poſſible to diſtinguiſh involuntary faults from thoſe that happen through negligence. To prevent any man from hoping that his negligence will be forgiven as involuntary, all blunders are puniſhed, from whatever cauſe they happen; the conſequence of which is, that every man is more attentive and alert than he would otherwiſe be. I remember, added he, that it was very uſual on field-days for the dragoons to have their hats blown off. Nobody ſuſpected that they had bribed the wind to play this trick; yet a general officer being put out of humour by the frequency of the accident, gave orders to puniſh every man to whom it ſhould happen; and ſince that order was put in force, the hats have been much ſeldomer blown off.

I then mentioned a fact which appeared to me ſtill more extraordinary. A huſſar, at the laſt review, had fallen from his horſe at full gallop, and was ſo much bruiſed, that it was found neceſſary to carry him to the hoſpital; and I had been aſſured, that as ſoon as the man ſhould be perfectly recovered, he would certainly be puniſhed for having fallen. Now, continued I, though a man may be a little careleſs about his hat, it cannot be imagined, that this huſſar was not ſeriouſly inclined to keep his ſeat; for by falling, he might have broke his neck, or have been trod to death: Or, even if you chuſe to ſuppoſe that he did not ride with all the attention he ought, yet, as he received one ſevere puniſhment by the fall, it would be cruel to inflict another. I have nothing to oppoſe to the ſolidity of your argument, replied the Pruſſian, but that General Seidlitz, who was the beſt officer of cavalry in the world, firſt introduced this piece of cruelty, ſince which it is certain, that the men have not fallen ſo often. The King imagines, continued the Pruſſian, that diſcipline is the ſoul of an army; that men in the different nations of Europe are, in thoſe qualities which are thought neceſſary for a ſoldier, nearly on a par; that in two armies of equal numbers, the degrees of diſcipline will determine how far one is ſuperior to the other. His great object, therefore, is to keep his own army at the higheſt poſſible degree of perfection in this eſſential point. If that could be done by gentle means, undoubtedly he would prefer them.—He is not naturally of a cruel diſpoſition.—His general conduct to officers of rank proves this.—Finding that the hopes of promotion, and a ſenſe of honour, are ſufficient motives to prompt them to their duty, he never has had recourſe, except in caſes of treachery, to any higher puniſhment than diſmiſſing them. In ſome remarkable inſtances, he has diſplayed more mildneſs than is uſual in any other ſervice. Some of his Generals have allowed towns of the greateſt importance to be taken by ſurpriſe; others have loſt intire armies; yet he never was influenced by popular clamour, or by the ruinous condition of his own affairs in conſequence of thoſe loſſes, to put any of the unfortunate generals to death. And when any of them have been ſuſpended for a certain time, or declared, by the decree of a court-martial, incapable of a military command under him, he has never aggravated the ſentence by any opprobrious commentary, but has rather alleviated it by ſome clauſe or meſſage, which ſpared the honour of the condemned general.

The common ſoldiers cannot be kept to their duty by mild treatment. Severe and immediate corporal puniſhment is found abſolutely neceſſary.—Not to uſe it at all, or to uſe it in a degree incapable of producing the full effect, would be weakneſs. Soldiers are ſometimes puniſhed for ſlips, which perhaps all their attention cannot prevent; becauſe, though it is impoſſible to aſcertain, that any particular man could have avoided them, yet experience has taught, that, by puniſhing every blunder, fewer are committed on the whole. This ſufficiently juſtifies the practice of what you call cruelty, but which is in reality ſalutary diſcipline; for an individual ſuffering unjuſtly is not ſo great an evil in an army, as the permitting negligence to paſs unpuniſhed. To allow ten guilty men to eſcape, rather than riſk the puniſhment of one innocent perſon, may be a good maxim in morality, or in civil government, but the reverſe will be found preferable in military diſcipline.

When the Pruſſian had finiſhed his diſcourſe, I ſaid, You ſeem to neglect all thoſe incitements which are ſuppoſed to influence the minds of ſoldiers; the love of glory, the love of country, you count as nothing. You addreſs yourſelf to no paſſion but one.—Fear is the only inſtrument by which you compel your common men to deeds of intrepidity.—Never mind the inſtrument, replied the Pruſſian, but look to the effect.

I am convinced, anſwered I, that Britiſh ſoldiers, with that degree of diſcipline which ſubſiſts in our army, which is not near ſo rigid as yours, animated by their native courage, and the intereſt which even the common men take in all their country's quarrels, are at leaſt equal to any other troops.

I hope, ſaid he, the experiment will not be made ſoon, for I eſteem your nation, and ſhould be ſorry to ſee your troops oppoſed to ours in the field: but till they are, you cannot be ſure of the juſtneſs of your aſſertion. The advantages you gained over the French in the late war rather makes for my argument, becauſe the French army is more remiſs in the article of diſcipline than yours.

I then returned to my old ground, the cruelty of haraſſing and tormenting men without intermiſſion; and aſſerted, that the advantages ariſing from ſuch exceſſive ſeverity, even though they ſhould be as great as he repreſented, could not form a ſufficient reaſon for rendering the lives of ſo many men miſerable.

I do not know that they are miſerable, replied he.—When men are but indifferently fed, forced to perform very hard duty, certain of being ſeverely puniſhed for the ſmalleſt faults, and ſometimes even for their misfortunes, can you doubt, ſaid I, that theſe men are miſerable?—They do not ſeem miſerable, replied he, they bear it very well.——And would you, added I, have the leſs remorſe in tormenting men, becauſe they have the ſtrength of mind to bear it well?

I then told him a ſtory I had heard of an Engliſh ſailor, who was tried for a robbery he had committed on the highway. While his doom was pronouncing, he raiſed a piece of rolled tobacco to his mouth, and held it between his teeth till he heard the ſentence of death paſſed on him. He then bit off a piece of the tobacco, and began to chew it with great unconcern. Sirrah, ſaid the judge, piqued at the man's indifference, do you know that you are to be hanged in a very ſhort time?—So I hear, ſaid the ſailor, ſquirting a little tobacco juice from his mouth.—Do you know, rejoined the judge, where you will go when yon die?—I cannot tell indeed, an't pleaſe your honour, ſaid the ſailor.—

Why, then, cried the judge, with a tremendous voice, I will tell you: You will go to hell, you villain, and there be burnt to all eternity.—If I ſhould, replied the ſailor, with perfect tranquillity, I hope, my Lord, I ſhall be able to bear it.

LETTER LXVIII.

Berlin.

BERLIN is certainly one of the moſt beautiful cities in Europe. The ſtreets are built in a very regular manner, and of a commodious breadth. In the new town they are perfectly ſtraight. Frederick-ſtreet is reckoned two Engliſh miles and a half, or a French league, in length. Others, which go off at right angles from that, are a mile, or a mile and a half long.

Some people aſſert, that Berlin covers as much ground as Paris. Theſe are not Frenchmen, as you will readily believe; neither am I of that opinion, but it certainly approaches much nearer to Paris in ſize than in number of inhabitants; Berlin is undoubtedly more than half the ſize of Paris, yet I am convinced it does not contain above a fifth of the inhabitants.

There are a few very magnificent buildings in this town. The reſt are neat houſes, built of a fine white free-ſtone, generally one, or at moſt two ſtories high. Here, as at Potſdam, the finiſhing within does not correſpond with the elegance of the outſide, and the ſoldiers are quartered on the ground-floor in rooms looking to the ſtreet. The principal edifices are the King's palace, and that of Prince Henry. Both of theſe are very magnificent. The arſenal, which is a noble ſtructure, is built in the form of a ſquare. We were informed, that at preſent it contains arms for 200,000 men. I am convinced this is no exaggeration.

The new Roman Catholic church is by far the moſt elegant place of worſhip in the city. The King allows the free exerciſe of every religion over all his dominions. He thinks the ſmalleſt controul over men's

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conſciences highly unjuſt. He even has the delicacy not to influence them by his example, and offends no religion, by giving a preference to any one in particular.

On the front of the opera-houſe, which is a very beautiful ſtructure, is this inſcription:

FREDERICUS REX, APOLLINI ET MUSIS.

After obſerving the inſcriptions and ornaments of the palaces and other public buildings, the new method of decorating the churches, the number of Mercuries, Apollos, Minervas, and Cupids, that are to be met with in this country, a ſtranger might be led to ſuſpect, that the Chriſtian religion was exploded from the Pruſſian dominions, and old Jupiter and his family reſtored to their ancient honours.

There is an equeſtrian ſtatue of William, the Great Elector, on the new bridge over the Spree. This is highly eſteemed as a piece of fine workmanſhip.—In the corner of one of the ſquares, is a ſtatue of Marſhal Schwerin. He is repreſented holding the enſign with which he advanced at the famous battle of Prague.—Perceiving his troops on the point of giving way, he ſeized this from the officer's hands whoſe duty it was to carry it, and marched towards the enemy, calling out, Let all but cowards follow me. The troops, aſhamed to abandon their general, charged once more, and turned the fortune of the day.—But the brave old Marſhal was killed, in the eighty-fourth year of his age.—Do not you think the trouble of living ſo long was amply repaid by ſuch a death?

Inſtead of ſaints or crucifixes, the King intends, that the churches of Berlin ſhall be ornamented with the portraits of men who have been uſeful to the ſtate. Thoſe of the Marſhals Schwerin, Keith, Winterfield, and ſome others, are already placed in the great Lutheran church.

The ſociety into which ſtrangers may be admitted in this capital, is not various or extenſive. The Pruſſian officers of the higher ranks, whoſe time is not entirely engroſſed, like that of their inferiors, by the duties of their profeſſion, live moſtly with their own families, or with each other. Excluſive of other reaſons which might determine them to this, it is underſtood, that the King does not approve of their forming intimacies with foreign miniſters, or with ſtrangers.

The Duke of Hamilton followed the King to Magdeburg to ſee the reviews there, and has ſince made a tour as far as Leipſic, with two Engliſh gentlemen. My connection with him, and the letter I brought from the Ducheſs of Brunſwick, have procured me invitations, which I ſhould otherwiſe have had but a ſmall chance of receiving. I paſſed a day lately at a very pleaſant villa, about ſix miles from Berlin, belonging to the King's brother, Prince Ferdinand,

Ferdinand. He is married to a ſiſter of the Princeſs of Heſſe Caſſel's. The Princeſs of Pruſſia was there at the ſame time, and Prince Frederick of Brunſwick with his Princeſs, who is remarkably pretty. I have the honour of ſupping ſometimes with Prince Frederick, who lives conſtantly at Berlin. To the ſpirit and vivacity common to all his family, he adds a taſte for poetry, and has compoſed ſome dramatic pieces in the French language, which have been repreſented on a little theatre in his own houſe, and in private ſocieties at Berlin.—There has been a continued round of feaſting all the laſt week.

The Princeſs of Pruſſia gave a breakfaſt at a garden in the Park, to which a large company was invited. There was dancing, which continued all the forenoon. Upon all theſe occaſions, I ſaw none of that ſtate and ceremony of which the Germans are accuſed. Thoſe of the higheſt rank behaved with the greateſt eaſe and affability to every perſon preſent, and joined in the country-dances, without obſerving any form or etiquette.

The miniſter, Count Finkenſtein, gave a great dinner and ball, on account of the marriage of one of his ſons. The Count Reuſe, and ſome others, have alſo given entertainments; but the chief and permanent ſociety is to be found at the houſes of the foreign miniſters who reſide here. I have been introduced to all of them by Mr. Harris, his Majeſty's envoy extraordinary, who lives here in a ſtyle which does honour to his country and himſelf.

We have received very great civilities alſo from Baron Van Swieten, miniſter from the Court of Vienna, a man of wit and erudition. He is ſon to the celebrated phyſician, whoſe works are ſo highly eſteemed all over Europe. There are two or three general officers who are pretty often at the houſes of theſe miniſters, and entertain ſtrangers occaſionally at home.—

Beſides thoſe I have named, there are very few of the King of Pruſſia's ſervants who have any connection with the ſtrangers that come to Berlin. I have had the happineſs of forming an acquaintance here with two very agreeable French gentlemen, the Marquis de Laval, ſon of the Duke of that name, and the Count de Clermont, grandſon of that Monſ. de Saint Hillaire, whoſe arm was carried off by the ſame bullet which killed Marſhal Turenne. You remember the ſentiment which St. Hillaire expreſſed to his ſon, who lamented his wound—A ſentiment which proved, that his magnanimity was equal to that of the hero whom he ſo greatly preferred to himſelf.

Adieu.

LETTER LXIX.

Berlin.

WHEN we arrived here firſt, the Queen lived at Mont Bijou, a ſmall palace juſt without the gates. Her Majeſty had a public day twice a week while ſhe remained there; but ſhe has lately removed to Shoenhauſen, another palace, ſituated two leagues from Berlin, where ſhe paſſes the ſummer. Here ſhe has a public day only once a week. The Princes, the nobility, the foreign miniſters, and ſtrangers, generally attend on theſe occaſions at five in the evening. After her Majeſty has walked round the circle, and ſpoke a few words to every one, ſhe ſits down to cards. There is a table for the Queen, and one for each of the Princeſſes, all of whom chooſe their own parties. The reſt of the company preſent themſelves for a few minutes at each of theſe card-tables, after which the duty of the day is over, and they walk in the garden, or form parties at cards in the other apartments, as they think proper, and return to Berlin when it begins to grow dark. On ſome particular nights, her Majeſty invites a conſiderable number of the company to ſupper, who then remain till midnight.

The Queen's Court reſembles the other Courts of Europe; whereas that at Sans-Souci is upon quite a new plan. No ſtrangers are received there, nor any other perſons, except ſuch as have real buſineſs with the King. There his Majeſty is employed in his affairs from morning till evening, and ſpends the hours he deſtines for relaxation in the company of two or three men of letters, and a few officers, who dine with him daily.—When he has buſineſs with any of his ſervants, or with the foreign miniſters, which cannot be executed by letter, they attend him at Sans-Souci, and come away as ſoon as that buſineſs is tranſacted.

Thoſe aſſemblies at Shoenhauſen are the only eſtabliſhed amuſement for the ladies of quality at Berlin during the ſummer; but you have frequent opportunities of meeting with the court ladies at the houſes of the foreign miniſters.

The French manners and turn of thinking certainly prevail very little among the Pruſſian officers; but the ladies of the court of Berlin have more the air of French women, than thoſe of any court I have ſeen. Mademoiſelle de Hartfield, firſt lady of honour to the Queen, with an infinite deal of wit, has all the eaſe and elegance which diſtinguiſh the ladies of the Court of Verſailles.

His Majeſty very ſeldom appears at the Queen's court, or at any place where women form part of the aſſembly. When he inclines to unbend, his amuſements are of a nature in which they can take no ſhare. I once ſaid to a lady of this Court, that it was a pity his Majeſty did not love women.—Conſidering his time of life, ſaid ſhe, we could diſpenſe with his love; but it is hard that he cannot endure us.

Notwithſtanding this humour of the King's, the ladies here are by no means neglected by the men in general. Many of the married women particularly, have avowed admirers, who attend them on all occaſions, are invited with them to all entertainments, ſit next them at table, and whom the maſter or miſtreſs of the feaſt takes care to place in the ſame party with them at cards. When a lady is not provided with an attendant of this kind, her huſband, as well as herſelf, is generally a little out of countenance, and both ſeem rather in an awkward ſituation, till this neceſſary concomitant be found.

A misfortune of a very ſerious nature happened lately to a certain gentleman here; inſtead of expreſſing concern about him or his wife (for he was a married man), every body ſympathized, in the tendereſt manner, with another lady, between whom and this unfortunate gentleman the moſt intimate connection was thought to ſubſiſt: they ſaid ſhe was one of the worthieſt women in the world, and of ſuch delicate feelings, that her health might be injured by the impreſſion the gentleman's misfortune would make upon her mind— Being ſurpriſed that no mention was made of his wife all this time, I aſked if ſhe might not alſo be in ſome meaſure affected by her huſband's diſaſter?—I was told, that ſhe was otherwiſe occupied, and that any thing which could happen to her huſband was of little or no importance to her. I then enquired if ſhe and her huſband lived on bad terms; I was informed, that, on the contrary, they were on the beſt footing in the world, for that he was much attached to another woman—(the very lady they ſo greatly lamented) and that his wife was entirely devoted to another man: ſo the account between them being perfectly balanced, they lived free of all domeſtic debates, in a ſtate of mutual neglect, and engroſſed with ſeparate paſſions.

In this country, when both parties are willing, and when there are no children, a divorce may be obtained with very little trouble or expence; we are frequently in companies, where a lady, her preſent and former huſband, are at table, and all parties behave in the moſt polite and friendly manner to each other.

I have heard of one gentleman, who having lived in a ſtate of domeſtic jarring with his wife, got her perſuaded to concur with him in applying for a divorce.—This was ſoon obtained.—He then married another woman, with whom he was violently in love, and expected, as uſual, eternal happineſs. After marriage, however,

ever, this paſſion cooled rather ſooner than common, and within a few months he became the profeſſed admirer of his firſt wife. He now ſaw a thouſand charms in her perſon and converſation, which had entirely eſcaped his notice, while the bonds of wedlock ſubſiſted. He alſo diſcovered, that certain peculiarities in her manner, which he had formerly thought exceedingly awkward, were in reality graceful. He expreſſed his remorſe for his former blindneſs in the moſt pathetic terms: the lady was ſoftened, and at length gave the moſt perfect marks of forgiveneſs; and it was univerſally thought, that he thus contrived to live in adultery with the very woman to whom he had been lawfully married.

Here jealouſy is held in equal contempt and deteſtation, and ſcandal is very little known. People ſeem ſo fully occupied with their own private affairs, that they ſeldom trouble their heads about the buſineſs of their neighbours. If, in the courſe of converſation, an intimacy of a particular kind is hinted at between people of different ſexes, it is mentioned accidentally as a fact of no importance, and without the ſmalleſt blame or ill-natured reflection on either of the parties. One reaſon of this may be, that there is ſcarce ſuch a thing (I am aſſured) as an old maid in his Pruſſian Majeſty's dominions.

The moſt faſhionable walk in Berlin, is in the middle of one of the principal ſtreets. —Before the houſes on each ſide there is a cauſeway, and between theſe two cauſeways are fine gravel walks, planted with lime-trees.—Tents are pitched under theſe, and ice, lemonade, and other refreſhments ſold. The bands of muſic belonging to the regiments practiſe here in the ſummer.—The company generally are in the greateſt number in the evening, and often walk till it is very late.

———Nunc et campus, et areæ,
Leneſque ſub noctem ſuſurri,
Compoſita repetantur hora *.

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* Beneath the grateful evening ſhade,
The public walks, the public park,
Are aſſignations duly made,
With gentle whiſpers in the dark.

LETTER LXX.

Berlin.

NOTHING ſurpriſed me more, when I firſt came to Berlin, than the freedom with which the people ſpoke of the meaſures of government, and the conduct of the King. I have heard political topics, and others which I ſhould have thought ſtill more ticklish, diſcuſſed here with as little ceremony as at a London coffee-houſe. The ſame freedom appears in the bookſellers' ſhops, where literary productions of all kinds are ſold openly. The pamphlet lately publiſhed on the diviſion of Poland, wherein the King is very roughly treated, is to be had without difficulty, as well as other performances, which attack ſome of the moſt conſpicuous characters with all the bitterneſs of ſatire.

A government, ſupported by an army of 180,000 men, may ſafely diſregard the criticiſms of a few ſpeculative politicians, and the pen of the ſatiriſt. While his Majeſty retains the power of diſpoſing of the lives and properties of his ſubjects as his wiſdom ſhall direct, he allows them the moſt perfect freedom to amuſe themſelves with as many remarks or jokes on his conduct as they pleaſe.

The mind of this monarch is infinitely ſuperior to that goſſiping diſpoſition, by which the deſpicable race of whiſperers and retailers of ſcandal thrive at ſome courts. Convinced that the ſame perfidy which can betray a real converſation, may invent a falſe one, he liſtens to no little, malicious tales of what has paſſed in private companies, or during the hours of convivial mirth. Any perſon who ſhould attempt to repeat anecdotes of this kind to him, would be driven from his preſence with diſgrace. He treats with equal contempt all anonymous letters, and every kind of injurious information, when the informer declines appearing openly in ſupport of his aſſertions.

This great Prince is ſo perfectly devoid of ſuſpicion and perſonal fear, that he reſides at Sans-Souci without any guard whatever. An orderly ſerjeant, or corporal only, attends there in the day-time to carry occaſional orders to the garriſon at Potſdam, whither he always returns in the evening. In this houſe, where the King ſleeps every night, there are not above ten or a dozen perſons, the ſervants included. When you recollect that Sans-Souci is a ſolitary manſion, about half a league from Potſdam, where all the guards are ſhut up, and therefore could be of no manner of uſe, in caſe of any attempt on the King's perſon during the night; when you conſider that he, who lies thus defenceleſs and expoſed, is a deſpotic monarch, who governs by the dictates of his own will and underſtanding, without minding the ill-humour or diſcontent of any man, or any ſet of men, and who, no doubt, has many inveterate enemies, you muſt confeſs, that all theſe circumſtances argue great magnanimity.

Berlin, though not a fortified, is certainly a very military town. When all the ſoldiers of the garriſon are preſent, they amount to 30,000. In their general conduct they are quiet, and the police of the town is pretty well regulated. Yet there are ſome kinds of irregularities which prevail in the higheſt degree. Public courtezans are more numerous here than in any town in Europe, in proportion to the number of inhabitants. They appear openly at the windows in the day-time, beckon to paſſengers as they walk in the ſtreets, and ply for employment in any way they pleaſe, without diſturbance from the magiſtrate.

It ſeems to be a received opinion here, that the peace and happineſs of the community are not interrupted by this ſpecies of licentiouſneſs; or perhaps it is believed, that an attempt to reſtrain it would be attended with conſequences worſe than the thing itſelf. Therefore nobody is allowed to moleſt or abuſe thoſe who have choſen this for a trade, and as little attention is paid to cuſtomers, who frequent the chambers of thoſe ladies, as if they ſtept into any other houſe or ſhop, to purchaſe any other commodity.

Another ſpecies of debauchery is ſaid to prevail in this capital.—I imagine, however, that what is related on that nauſeous ſubject is greatly exaggerated.

The better kind of citizens and manufacturers live entirely among thoſe of their own rank, and without affecting the manners of the courtiers, or ſtooping to the mean debauchery of the commonalty, maintain the decency, plainneſs, and honeſty of the German character.

His Pruſſian Majeſty has applied his attention to no object with ſo much zeal, and ſo little ſucceſs, as to the eſtabliſhing of commerce in his dominions. All his efforts, in order to this, have been rendered abortive by injudicious taxes, by monopolies, and other reſtrictions. Commerce, like the wild commoners of the air and the foreſt, when confined or ſhackled, immediately droops and dwindles, or being alarmed, like Love,

"——————— at ſight of human ties,
" Spreads its light wings, and in a moment
" flies."

LETTER LXXI.

Berlin.

I THANK you, Sir, for the poem and pamphlet you ſent me by ——. I own I do not think the former a very capital performance; yet am not ſurpriſed at the great run it has had. For though it had contained ſtill a ſmaller proportion of wit, it would have been a good deal reliſhed on account of the malignity and perſonal abuſe with which it abounds.

The Engliſh nation have always had a great appetite for political writings; but thoſe who cater for them have of late ſerved up ſuch meſſes of mere politics, as ſeem at length to have turned their ſtomachs. A little wit or perſonal ſatire is now found neceſſary to make even a news-paper go down. The firſt is not always at the command of the caterer; he therefore uſes the other in its place, which anſwers his purpoſe as well.

I never had any delight in contemplating or expoſing the dark ſide of human nature; but there are ſome ſhades ſo obvious, that you cannot open your eyes without obſerving them. The ſatisfaction that many people enjoy in reading libels, wherein private characters are traduced, is of that number. If to be abuſed in pamphlets and news-papers is conſidered as adverſity, the truth of Rochefoucault's maxim is uncontrovertible:—Dans l'adverſité de nos meilleurs amis, nous trouvons toujours quelquechoſe qui ne nous déplait pas.

The common ſcribblers of the age have turned to their own account this malevolent diſpoſition, which they perceive to be ſo prevalent among men.—Like the people who provide bulls and other animals to be baited by dogs for the amuſement of the ſpectators, theſe gentlemen turn out a few characters every week to be mangled and torn in the moſt cruel manner in the public news-papers.

It is the ſavage taſte of thoſe who pay for theſe amuſements, which keeps them in uſe. The writers of ſcurrilous books in London often bear no more malice to the individuals they abuſe, than the people at Paris and Vienna, who provide the other horrid amuſement, bear to the boars, bulls, and other animals which they expoſe to the fury of dogs.

As for the ſcribblers, they ſeldom have any knowledge of the perſons whoſe characters they attack. It is far from being impoſſible, that the author of the ſevere verſes you ſent me, has no more acquaintance with the lords and gentlemen againſt whom he writes with ſuch bitterneſs, than the weaver who wove their pocket-handkerchiefs. The motive for the fabrication of the one as well as the other commodity moſt probably was daily bread, and this poetaſter has preferred ſatire to panegyric, merely becauſe he knew the firſt was moſt to the taſte of his cuſtomers.

I remember once to have been in a certain bookſeller's ſhop, when a letter was delivered to him, incloſing a paper, which, after he had thrown his eyes over it, he preſented to me, telling me it was a character of Lord S——, which he intended to inſert in a certain work then publiſhing.—I fancy, added he, it will do pretty well; the author is a ſharp blade, I aſſure you;—none of my boys carry ſuch an edge, or cut ſo deep, as that little gladiator.

I found this a moſt bitter invective againſt the above-mentioned nobleman, written with all the inveteracy of malice and perſonal enmity, branding him as a prodigy of ſenſuality, and accuſing him of every villanous diſpoſition and propenſity that ever tainted the moſt corrupt heart.

This, ſaid I, is a much more harmleſs production than is intended. The violence of this poiſon will prove its own antidote. The moſt voracious ſtomach for ſlander and defamation will not be able to bear ſuch a doſe, but muſt reject it with diſguſt. Every reader of common underſtanding will clearly perceive, that all this abuſe has been dictated by malice and perſonal reſentment.

Then, replied the bookſeller, every reader of common underſtanding will clearly perceive what does not exiſt; for the writer of that paper, to my certain knowledge, never had the ſmalleſt intercourſe or connection with Lord S——; never bore him any ill-will, and has not the moſt diſtant wiſh to injure that noble Lord; as a proof of which, added he, taking another paper out of his drawer, here is a character of the ſame nobleman, written by the ſame author, which is to appear about a week after the publication of the former, by way of anſwer to it.

This ſecond paper was a continued eulogium on Lord S—— from beginning to end, in which the *candid* author, having compared him to ſome of the greateſt and moſt celebrated men, and having collected many of the brighteſt flowers, with which Plutarch has adorned his worthies, he forms them into one large wreath, which he very ſeriouſly binds round the Engliſh nobleman's brow, concluding with this obſervation, That as his Lordſhip reſembled them in their virtues, ſo like them he had been diſtinguiſhed by the moſt virulent attacks of envy and malice, which was a tax that had always been paid for ſuperior talents.

How comes my Lord S——, ſaid I to the bookſeller, to be ſelected from his brethren of the peerage, and diſtinguiſhed ſo remarkably by the obloquy and the praiſe of your ingenious friend?

Becauſe, replied he, that nobleman is at the head of an active department, and is one of thoſe vigorous and deciſive characters, which never fail to create a number of enemies and of friends. His enemies are delighted to ſee him abuſed, and it is expected, that his friends will be charmed to hear him praiſed; and, between the two, my friend's productions will find a briſk ſale, and I hope to make a tolerable job of his Lordſhip; which, let me tell you, cannot be done with every man of rank.—Lord, Sir! there are ſome of them of ſuch mawkiſh, water-gruel characters, as to intereſt no mortal. There is ---------, a man of ſuch high rank and ſuch a known name, that I thought ſomething might have been made of him:—And ſo I employed my little Drawcanſir for and againſt him, and two very pretty pamphlets he produced;—but juſt as I was going to ſend them to the preſs, I happened to ſhew them to a friend of mine, who is an admirable judge in theſe matters.—Theſe pamphlets, ſays he, are very well wrote; but they'll never pay the printing. The perſon who is the ſubject of them is of ſuch a cold, tame, civil, cautious diſpoſition, and has balanced ſo exactly through the whole of his life, that he has never obliged or diſobliged any one. He has neither friend nor foe in the world:—Every body ſays, he is a good enough ſort of a man; but were he to break his neck to-night, no human creature would feel either ſorrow or ſatiſfaction at the event, and a ſatire or panegyric on his grandmother would be as much read as thoſe written on him.

In faith, Sir, concluded the Bookſeller, I took the hint, and ſo the pamphlets never appeared.

Though I was a good deal entertained with my friend the Bookſeller's reaſoning, yet I could not help feeling indignation at the literary bravo, who lived in this infamous manner, by wounding and murdering, or at leaſt attempting to murder, people's reputations. And thoſe are not entirely free from blame, who, deteſting the writer, take pleaſure in the writings. He has very poſſibly the plea of neceſſitous circumſtances to urge in alleviation of his wickedneſs:—but the pleaſure they take ſeems to proceed from a pure, diſintereſted fondneſs of ſeeing others abuſed. Many of thoſe who cry ſhame on the licentiouſneſs of the preſs, and exclaim againſt the injuſtice and cruelty of tearing private characters to pieces in public papers, have the moſt virulent of theſe productions ſerved up every morning as regularly as their toaſt and butter. If they would forego the pleaſure of reading the moſt malicious of thoſe compoſitions, the evil they complain of would ceaſe directly.

But it is ridiculous, and ſeems ungrateful, for people to affect an appearance of indignation againſt thoſe who provide for them one of the greateſt enjoyments of their lives. To chuckle over ſcandal all the forenoon with every mark of pleaſure, and decry it in the evening with affected anger, is as prepoſterous as it would be in a judge, firſt to ſeduce a poor wench to fornication, and then puniſh her for the ſin.

You may poſſibly retort upon me, by putting me in mind of the admiration I expreſſed of the ſtyle of certain celebrated letters, wherein ſome eminent characters are diſſected, and tortured with the ſcientific ſkill of an anatomiſt, and the refined cruelty of an inquiſitor. I anſwer, that I admired the wit and genius, but not the diſpoſition diſplayed in thoſe letters.

Malice, when introduced by genius and wit, is often tolerated on account of the reſpect due to the introducers; but when the wretch comes alone, or is accompanied by dulneſs, which often happens, ſhe will be expelled with infamy from all good company.

LETTER LXXII.

Berlin.

THE Pruſſian army at preſent, according to my information, conſiſts of 180,000 men. If twenty, or even thirty thouſand are deducted from this account, on the ſuppoſition that it is exaggerated, ſtill the remainder will be very great; and the expence of ſuch an eſtabliſhment, in time of peace, ſeems to many almoſt incompatible with the King of Pruſſia's reſources. Although the revenues of this monarch are much greater than is generally imagined, yet the armies he has ſupported, and continues to ſupport; the palace he has built, and other expenſive undertakings which he has completed, are not ſuch proofs of the greatneſs of his revenue, as of the prudence with which it has been managed. Many other Princes have greater revenues, which, like water ſpilt on uncultivated land, and aſſiſting the growth of uſeleſs weeds, are diſſipated, without taſte or magnificence, on the trumpery of a court and their dependents. Perhaps it was never known what miracles œconomy and aſſiduity, through all the departments of government, could perform, till this monarch made it apparent.

In the King of Pruſſia's dominions, there are none of thoſe poſts which enrich individuals at the expence of the public; places ſuited to the abilities and the luxury of the great, where the ſalary is large, becauſe the application and talents requiſite are ſmall. If thoſe who hold the moſt lucrative places in this court, can ſupport a becoming dignity by the emoluments of their office, and lay up a very moderate proviſion for their families, it is the utmoſt they ever expect.

All commodities are highly taxed in the Pruſſian dominions. At Berlin, though money is a great deal ſcarcer than at London or Paris, a ſtranger will find very little difference in the ordinary expence of living. There are no means by which his revenue can be augmented, which this King has not tried. He has taxed even the vanity of his ſubjects, and drawn conſiderable ſupplies ſince the beginning of his reign from that plentiful ſource. The rage which the Germans, above all men, have for titles, prompts many of the wealthy citizens to purchaſe that of ſome office about court; and although the King employs no perſon void of abilities, he never ſcruples to permit this kind of traffic. The title, however, is literally all that is ſold, for with regard to the real buſineſs of the office, the purchaſer has as little connection with it after the bargain as before. Though his Majeſty ſcarcely ever conſults with any body, he has more nominal privycounſellors than any King in Chriſtendom.

The taxes in general are invariably fixed; but methods are found of drawing contributions from the proprietors of the very great eſtates, which do not affect the ſmaller landlords, or the reſt of the ſubjects. The ſpirit of the government is not favourable to great and independent Lords. But both the great and the ſmall landlords are prevented from ſqueezing or oppreſſing the peaſants. As the ſoldiery are drawn from them, care is taken that they ſhall not be deprived of the chief ſource of health and vigour, and there is no peaſantry in Europe better fed than the Pruſſian.

The army is chiefly compoſed of provincial regiments. The whole Pruſſian dominions being divided into circles or cantons; in each of theſe, one or more regiments, in proportion to the ſize and populoufneſs of the diviſion, have been originally raiſed, and from it the recruits continue to be taken; and each particular regiment is always quartered, in the time of peace, near the canton from which its recruits are drawn.

Whatever number of ſons a peaſant may have, they are all liable to be taken into the ſervice except one, who is left to aſſiſt in the management of the farm. The reſt wear badges from their childhood, to mark that they are deſtined to be ſoldiers, and ready to ſerve when the ſtate requires them. If a peaſant has only one ſon, he is not forced into the ſervice, except he has the misfortune to be uncommonly ſtout and well-made. The King, however, endeavours to ſave his own peaſantry, and draw as many recruits as he can from other countries:—For this purpoſe, there are Pruſſian officers employed at Hamburgh, Frankfort, and other free towns of Germany. I have ſeen them alſo at Neufchatel,

tel, and at places near French garriſons, attempting to inliſt men, and pick up deſerters. The recruits procured in this manner, remain continually with the regiments in which they are placed; but the native Pruſſians have every year eight or nine months of furlough, during which they return to their fathers' or brothers' houſes, and work at the buſineſs of the farm, or gain their livelihood in any other way they pleaſe. Here is at once an immenſe ſaving in the expence of the army, and a great gain to the ſtate from the labour of ſo many men.

From this it appears, that the Pruſſian army is neither more nor leſs than a ſtanding militia, embodied for two or three months every year, and then diſperſed to their uſual labours as farmers.

I think this decides our old diſpute on the ſubject of ſtanding armies and militia. I expect therefore that you will, by the return

turn of poſt, fairly and candidly acknowledge that I was in the right, and that all your arguments to prove, that a militia could not be depended on in the time of actual ſervice, are built on falſe principles, and that my opinion was juſt and well-founded.

Before cloſing this letter, I will inform you of a very ſingular incident, the circumſtances of which I relate, not ſo much with a deſign to illuſtrate the character or ſentiments of the vulgar of this place in particular, as to furniſh you with a curious fact in the hiſtory of human nature in general.

I went a few days ſince with Mr. Forteſcue to ſee a man executed for the murder of a child.—His motives for this horrid deed were much more extraordinary than the action itſelf. He had accompanied ſome of his companions to the houſe of a fellow who aſſumed the character of a fortuneteller, and having diſobliged him, by expreſſing a contempt of his art, the fellow, out of revenge, propheſied, that this man ſhould die on a ſcaffold.—This ſeemed to make little impreſſion at the time, but afterwards recurred often to this unhappy creature's memory, and became every day more troubleſome to his imagination. At length the idea haunted his mind ſo inceſſantly, that he was rendered perfectly miſerable, and could no longer endure life.

He would have put himſelf to death with his own hands, had he not been deterred by the notion, that God Almighty never forgave ſuicide; though, upon repentance, he is very ready to pardon every other crime. He reſolved, therefore, to commit murder, that he might be deprived of life by the hands of juſtice; and mingling a ſentiment of benevolence with the cruelty of his intention, he reflected, that if he murdered a grown perſon, he might poſſibly ſend a ſoul to hell. To avoid this, he determined to murder a child, who could not have committed any ſin which deſerved damnation, but dying in innocence, would go immediately to Heaven. In conſequence of theſe ideas, he actually murdered an infant of his maſter's, for whom he had always ſhewn an uncommon degree of fondneſs. Such was the ſtrange account which this infatuated creature gave on his trial;—and thus the random prophecy proved, as in many other caſes, the cauſe of its own completion.

He was executed about two miles from Berlin. As ſoon as he aſcended the ſcaffold, he took off his coat and waiſtcoat;—his ſhirt was rolled down below his ſhoulders;—his night-cap was pulled over his eyes;—he was placed on his knees, and the executioner, with a ſingle ſtroke of a broad ſword, ſevered his head from his body.—It was the firſt time this executioner had performed:—there were two others of the ſame trade on the ſcaffold, who exhibited an inſtance of inſenſibility more ſhocking than the execution.—While the man's head rolled on the ſcaffold, and the arteries of the trunk poured out their blood, thoſe men, with the gayeſt air you can imagine, ſhook their brother by the hand, wiſhed him joy, and clapped him on the back, congratulating him on the dexterous and effectual manner in which he had performed his office.

LETTER LXXIII.

Berlin.

THE Duke of Hamilton having expreſſed an inclination to viſit the court of Mecklenburg Strelitz, I accompanied him thither ſoon after his return from Magdeburg and Leipſic. The weather being ſultry, his Grace thought that travelling in the night would be moſt agreeable. We did not ſet out therefore till about ſix or ſeven in the evening. The firſt poſt-houſe is four German miles from Berlin; but as great part of the road is through a large wood, and the night became very dark, the poſtilions loſt their way. In a ſhort time we were perfectly bewildered, and without the ſmalleſt notion which direction we ſhould follow. After many ineffectual attempts to find out the path, we thought it would be moſt prudent to unyoke the horſes, and allow them to graze around, while we ſlept in the chaiſe till day-break. This plan was literally followed: as ſoon as the ſervants, by the light of the riſing ſun, had diſcovered the path, we proceeded by Oranienburg and Seidneek to Reinſburg, which is a magnificent caſtle belonging to Prince Henry of Pruſſia.

The gardens here are very extenſive, and have been highly improved and ornamented by this Prince, who has a good taſte, and a magnificent turn of mind.

When we arrived at the town of New Strelitz, we were informed that the court was at Brandenburg. The Ducal reſidence was formerly at Old Strelitz; but the palace there, with all the magnificent furniture and effects, was burnt to aſhes about fifty years ago. The fire having broke out in the night-time, the family themſelves had a very narrow eſcape.

A new palace has been ſince built at the diſtance of two Engliſh miles from where the former ſtood, but in a much more agreeable ſituation, being placed on a gentle eminence near a fine lake; and the town of New Strelitz has gradually ariſen in the neighbourhood.

After a ſhort ſtay at Strelitz, we proceeded to New Brandenburg, which is ſome leagues farther north, and within a ſmall diſtance of the Baltic. We arrived there in the morning of the third day after we had left Berlin. When the Chamberlain of the Court was informed of the Duke of Hamilton's arrival, we received an invitation to dinner, and a coach and equipage were ordered to attend his Grace.

The reigning Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz is unmarried, as well as the Princeſs, his ſiſter, who lives conſtantly with him. They are both of a darker complexion than the Queen of Great Britain, and neither of them ſo tall; nor have they much external reſemblance of her Majeſty, except in the affability of their manner. The Duke is beloved by his ſubjects, on account of the humanity and benevolence of his diſpoſition, which ſeem to be characteriſtic of the whole family.—After dinner there was a concert of muſic, and card-playing till ſupper.

The whole country of Mecklenburg was for many centuries under the government of one Prince. In the year 1592, on the death of the Sovereign, it was divided between his two ſons. The eldeſt retaining the Duchy of Mecklenburg Schwerin, which is conſiderably the largeſt ſhare; the younger obtained the Duchy of Mecklenburg Strelitz. This laſt branch became extinct in the year 1695, and Duke Frederic William, of the eldeſt branch, laid claim to the inheritance of the Duchy of Strelitz. But he was oppoſed by Adolphus Frederic, his father's younger brother, and the conteſt was ſettled by compromiſe between the parties in 1701. The right of primogeniture, and the lineal ſucceſſion were then eſtabliſhed in both houſes, and this final agreement was ratified by the Emperor.

The country here is not a ſandy flat, as around Berlin; but the ſoil becomes gradually better as you move from that city, and around New Brandenburg it is remarkably fertile. Though the ſouthern border of this Duchy is flat, ſandy, and barren, yet all the northern part is of a rich verdure, finely diverſified with hills, meadows, woods, and ſeveral beautiful lakes, from four to ten miles in length. The country yields plenty of corn, hemp, flax, excellent paſture for numerous flocks of ſheep, and a good breed of horſes.—New Brandenburg is a neat and thriving town, very agreeably ſituated. The inhabitants carry on a conſiderable trade in hops, which grow in great abundance all around.

This country, which ſeems to be happy in its prince and other particulars, cannot rank among its bleſſings the neighbourhood of ſo great and warlike a monarch as the King of Pruſſia. In the courſe of the late war, both the Mecklenburgs ſuffered very ſeverely from this circumſtance. The Ruſſians and Auſtrians, who pillaged the middle Mark of Brandenburg, did not aſcertain with nicety where the King of Pruſſia's dominions ended, and the Duke of Strelitz's began; but as often as there was any thing valuable to carry away, plundered both without diſtinction. And when that Monarch himſelf was driven to extremity, and obliged to uſe every means of recruiting his army, the Mecklenburghers were cajoled and ſeduced by every art into the Pruſſian ſervice; and when theſe methods failed, they were, as it is ſaid, taken by force. Even at preſent, whenever the Pruſſian recruiting officers know of a ſtrong well-looking peaſant belonging to the Duchy of Mecklenburg, they uſe every means they can deviſe to ſeduce him into their maſter's ſervice.—Complaints are frequently made of theſe practices to his Pruſſian Majeſty, and redreſs will be given when it ſhall pleaſe the Lord.

The ſecond day after our arrival, we ſpent the forenoon in viewing every thing worthy of notice in the town, and dined again at court, where there was a more numerous company than had been the firſt day. After dinner we accompanied his Highneſs and the Princeſs to an aſſembly in the town, and returned to ſup at the court. During ſupper there was a concert of vocal and inſtrumental muſic.

Having received every mark of polite attention from this Prince, we took leave of him and the Princeſs, and left the town early next morning, and returned by Old Strelitz, which is not in ſuch a flouriſhing condition, or ſituated in ſo fine a country, as

New Brandenburg. While Britiſh ſubjects paſs through this country, they will naturally reflect with gratitude and veneration on the character of a Princeſs whoſe virtues are an ornament to the Britiſh throne, and whoſe amiable manners and prudent conduct have united the affections of a people divided by party, and irreconcileable in ſentiment on almoſt every other ſubject.

On our return to Berlin, I found a letter from Lord Marechal, informing me, that the King was expected at Potſdam within a very few days; that great preparations were making for the reception of the Princeſs of Heſſe and the Ducheſs of Wurtemberg, who were then both at Berlin, and were to pay a viſit to the King at Sans-Souci; that they would be accompanied by the Princeſs Amelia, the King's unmarried ſiſter, and his two ſiſters-in-law, for all of whom apartments were preparing at the new palace, where his majeſty alſo was to reſide all the time that his illuſtrious gueſts ſhould remain. My Lord added, that the celebrated Le Kain, and a company of French comedians, were already arrived, and alſo a company of Italian actors and ſingers for the opera; and that both companies were to perform at the theatre within the palace; that a great concourſe of company was expected at Potſdam on the occaſion; that moſt of the apartments in the town were already beſpoke, and, as he imagined we ſhould incline to be there, he had engaged lodgings for us.

The Duke was extremely pleaſed with this obliging behaviour of Lord Marechal. I afterwards ſpoke to Mr. Harris on this ſubject, and enquired if he intended to be at Potſdam on the occaſion? He told me, that as the plays, operas, and other entertainments, were to be given in the palace, nobody could attend them except thoſe who had particular invitations; that neither he nor any of the foreign miniſters had been, or, as he underſtood, were to be invited, nor did he hear that any ſtrangers were expected;—and that he imagined it would be unbecoming the Duke of Hamilton to be at Potſdam at that time, except he could with propriety attend the entertainments at Sans-Souci.

His Grace, on hearing this account, determined to remain here; but ſome days after, I received a letter from Count Finkenſtein, acquainting me, that he had orders to invite the Duke of Hamilton and me to attend the entertainments to be given at Sans-Souci. This afforded us great ſatiſfaction, not ſo much on account of the public entertainments, as becauſe it will give us opportunities, which we could not otherwiſe have, of ſeeing the King of Pruſſia, and probably in an eaſier way than at Berlin. As for the uſual amuſements and ſplendour of courts, his Grace diſplays more coolneſs about them than one would naturally imagine, conſidering the manner in which he is received, his time of life, and his perſonal appearance.

———Namque ipſa decoram
Cæſariem nato genitrix, lumenque juventæ
Purpureum, & lætos oculis afflârat honores.

Since our return from Mecklenburg, we have paſſed our time almoſt conſtantly with Mr. Harris, who accompanied the Duke yeſterday on his laſt viſit to Shoenhauſen; for we ſhall probably not return to this place from Potſdam. Mr. Forteſcue ſet out a few days ago for Frankfort on the Maine; his eaſy humour, and original turn of thought, make his abſence felt with pain by all who have taſted the pleaſure of his converſation.

Adieu.

LETTER LXXIV.

Potſdam.

WE have been here about a fortnight. His Majeſty arrived at the new palace of Sans-Souci about the ſame time that we came to Potſdam. The Princeſs Amelia, who is miſtreſs of the ceremonies, was there to receive him. The company I formerly mentioned are all lodged in the palace. I will give you a ſhort ſketch of what has paſſed.

There has been a theatrical entertainment every ſecond or third day. His Grace and I attend at Sans-Souci on theſe days only. We drive from Potſdam about five in the evening. The company aſſemble in one of the apartments of the palace about that time, and walk to the playhouſe a little before ſix. The theatre is very well contrived for the accommodation of a ſmall audience. There are neither boxes nor pit; but ſemicircular benches in the front of the ſtage. The foremoſt bench is upon the floor; the others riſe gradually behind, that all the ſpectators may ſee equally well.

A few minutes after the company are placed, the Royal Family arrive. The Princeſs Amelia is led in by Prince Frederick of Brunſwick, and the Princeſs of Heſſe by the King. The Ducheſs of Wurtemberg, and the other Princeſſes, are led in after: they, and the ladies their attendants, ſit in the firſt rows. The King generally ſeats himſelf in the third or fourth. The piece then begins, and is uſually finiſhed about nine, after which all the company return to the large apartment, where the King remains converſing in a familiar manner till ſupper is ready. He then retires, and goes to bed at ten.

Thoſe whom the Princeſs Amelia orders to be invited, ſtay to ſupper; and there is generally a pretty numerous company.—We have been at this repaſt three or four times, and uſually get to our lodgings at Potſdam about midnight.

Hitherto there have been no comedies acted, and I underſtand there are to be none, becauſe Le Kain never acts in comedy; and for another reaſon, which is equivalent to a thouſand,—his Majeſty loves tragedy better.

Le Kain has already appeared in ſome of his principal characters.—You need not doubt of his exerting all his powers before ſuch an audience—I might have ſaid, ſuch an auditor. The King ſeemed pleaſed with his acting, and of conſequence the courtiers were in raptures, and vied with each other who ſhould praiſe him moſt.

The tragedy of Oedipus is his Majeſty's favourite piece. This has been repreſented twice, and he ſeemed to enjoy it very much on both occaſions; particularly when the following ſpeech againſt prieſts was pronounced:

Tandis que par vos ſoins vous pouvez tout apprendre,
Quel beſoin que le Ciel ici ſe faſſe entendre?
Ces Dieux, dont le pontife a promis le ſecours,
Dans leurs temples, Seigneur, n'habitent pas toujours;
On ne voit point leur bras ſi prodigue en miracles;
Ces antres, ces trépieds, qui rendent leur oracles,
Ces organes d'airain que nos mains ont formés,
Toujours d'un ſouffle pur ne ſont point animés.
Ne nous endormons point ſur la foi de leurs prêtres;
Au pied du ſanctuaire il eſt ſouvent des traîtres,
Qui nous aſſerviſſant ſous un pouvoir ſacré,
Font parler les deſtins, les font taire à leur gré.
Voyez, examinez, avec un ſoin extrême,
Philoctète, Phorbas, & Jocaſte elle-même.
Ne nous fions qu'à nous, voyons tout par nos yeux,
Ce ſont là nos trépieds, nos oracles, nos Dieux.

And afterwards, when Jocaſtà pours forth another tirade of the ſame kind, which terminates with theſe lines:

Nos Prêtres ne ſont point ce qu'un vain peuple penſe;
Notre crédulitè fait toute leur ſcience;

I happened to ſit next to the Abbé Baſtiani, and, while the actreſs ſpoke this, the king ſtarted up, coughed, and laughed, with very ſignificant geſtures, to the eccleſiaſtic.

But though theſe paſſages, and ſome others, ſeem at firſt ſight to be ſevere againſt prieſts, the tragedy of Oedipus, upon the whole, does them great honour. For all that is ſaid againſt them, turns out to be unjuſt, and it appears that the oracle, which had been treated in ſuch ſevere terms, was true, and that the high-prieſt had acted throughout like an honeſt and virtuous man. It ſurpriſes me, therefore, that Voltaire ſhould have taken the plot of his play from the Greek tragedy on this ſubject, which has conſtrained him, like Balaam the ſon of Barak, to do honour to thoſe whom he would have been better pleaſed to have curſed.—And the King on his part (if I may preſume to ſay it) could not have pitched upon a tragedy leſs à-propos, if his intention was to turn the clergy into ridicule.

I have no objection to this piece, on account of the honour done to the clergy; becauſe I cannot help forming an opinion of men from my own experience: And I have known ſo many good men of that profeſſion, that I ſhould reſpect it on their account, excluſive of other reaſons.

But I own I have the misfortune not to follow this great monarch, and many other reſpectable critics, in their admiration of the tragedy of Oedipus.—The fable, in my poor opinion, is too horrible.—The circumſtance of Oedipus being married to his mother, and having children by her, is highly diſguſting; and the idea it gives of Providence and the conduct of the gods, cannot have a good effect on the mind. Nothing could be more unjuſt, than that Heaven ſhould ſend a plague among the inhabitants of Thebes, and pour ſuch vengeance on poor Oedipus and Jocaſta, for crimes of which it knew them to be innocent. We cannot help admitting the juſtice of Oedipus's reproaches againſt the gods, when he ſays,

Le voilà donc rempli cet oracle exécrable,
Dont ma crainte a preſſé l'effet inévitable:
Et je me vois enfin, par un mélange affreux,
Inceſte, & parricide, & pourtant vertueux.
Miſerable vertu, nom ſtérile & fûneſte,
Toi par qui j'ai réglé des jours que je déteſte,
A mon noir aſcendant tu n'as pû reſiſter:
Je tombais dans le piége, en voulant l'éviter.
Un Dieu plus fort que moi m'entraînait vers le crime;
Sous mes pas fugitifs il creuſait un abîme;
Et j'etais, malgré moî, dans mon aveuglement,
D'un pouvoir inconnu l'eſclave & l'inſtrument.
Voilà tous mes forfaits, je ne'en connais point d'autres.
Impitoyables Dieux, mes crimes ſont les vôtres,
Et vous m'en puniſſez . . . . . .

We muſt ſuſpect, however, that Jocaſta was miſtaken in the opinion ſhe utters in the concluding lines of the tragedy.

Prêtres, & vous Thébains, qui futes mes ſujets,
Honorez mon bucher, & ſongez à jamais,
Qu'au milieu des horreurs du deſtin qui m'opprime,
J'ai fait rougir les dieux, qui m'ont forcé au crime.

For thoſe, who could force innocent people to commit criminal actions, and then puniſh them on that account, were not capable of bluſhing for any thing.

A French tragedy and Italian opera are repreſented at this theatre alternately; the King attends the latter as punctually as the former, and diſplays in his countenance that extreme ſenſibility to muſic, which forms part of his character. I imagine this Prince would ſucceed better in any thing than in ſimulation, if he ſhould ever think it worth his while to attempt that part of hypocriſy,—his features are ſo expreſſive of his feelings, that the firſt would be conſtantly in danger of betraying the other. When there is no repreſentation at the theatre, his Majeſty has a private concert in his own apartment, where he himſelf performs on the German flute, in which inſtrument he has attained the higheſt degree of excellence.—To theſe concerts no ſtranger is admitted.

LETTER LXXV.

Potſdam.

WHEN we firſt arrived here, there was nothing I was ſo eager to ſee as the Pruſſian troops at their exerciſe; but the reviews at Berlin have completely ſatiated my curioſity. And though the gardens of the palace are juſt oppoſite to the windows of our inn, I hardly ever go to look at the guards, who are paraded there every forenoon.—A few days ago, however, I happened to take a very early walk about a mile out of town, and ſeeing ſome ſoldiers under arms, in a field at a ſmall diſtance from the road, I went towards them. An officer on horſeback, whom I took to be the Major, for he gave the word of command, was uncommonly active, and often rode among the ranks to reprimand, or inſtruct, the common men. When I came nearer, I was much ſurpriſed to find that this was the King himſelf. He had his ſword drawn, and continued to exerciſe the corps for an hour after. He made them wheel, march, form the ſquare, and fire by diviſions, and in platoons, obſerving all their motions with infinite attention; and, on account of ſome blunder, put two officers of the Prince of Pruſſia's regiment in arreſt.—In ſhort, he ſeemed to exert himſelf with all the ſpirit of a young officer; eager to attract the notice of his General by uncommon alertneſs.

I expreſſed my ſurpriſe to an officer preſent, that the King was not willing to take ſome repoſe, particularly from that kind of employment of which he had had ſo very much of late, and that he could take ſo much pains with a mere handful of men immediately after he had come from exerciſing whole armies.

This gentleman told me, that, on this particular day, the King had been trying ſome new evolutions; but though this had not been the caſe, he might very poſſibly have been in the field:—for his maxim was, that his troops ſhould diſplay as much briſkneſs on a common field-day as if they were to engage in battle; and therefore it was never known when he intended to be preſent, or when not:—that as for repoſe, he took it between ten at night and four in the morning, and his other hours were all devoted to action, either of body or mind, or both; and that the exerciſe he had juſt taken, was probably by way of relaxation after three hours previous labour in his cabinet.

The more I ſee and hear of this extraordinary man, the more am I aſtoniſhed. He reconciles qualities which I uſed to think incompatible. I once was of opinion, that the mind, which ſtoops to very ſmall objects, is incapable of embracing great ones;

—I am now convinced, that he is an exception; for while few objects are too great for his genius, none ſeem too ſmall for his attention.

I once thought that a man of much vivacity was not capable of entering into the detail of buſineſs:—I now ſee that he, who is certainly a man of wit, can continue methodically the neceſſary routine of buſineſs, with the patience and perſeverance of the greateſt dunce that ever drudged in a compting-houſe.

Since my laſt, we have ſeen the Italians perform; but neither the plays nor the operas, nor any part of the entertainments, intereſt me half ſo much, or could draw me ſo aſſiduouſly to Sans-Souci, as the opportunity this attendance gives of ſeeing the King. Other monarchs acquire importance from their ſtation; this Prince gives importance to his. The traveller in other countries has a wiſh to ſee the King, becauſe he admires the kingdom:—

here the object of curioſity is reverſed:—and let us ſuppoſe the palaces, and the towns, and the country, and the army of Pruſſia ever ſo fine, yet your chief intereſt in them will ariſe from their belonging to Frederic the Second;—the man, who, without an ally but Britain, repelled the united force of Auſtria, France, Ruſſia, and Sweden.

Count Neſſelrode, talking with me on this ſubject, had an expreſſion equally lively and juſt: C'eſt dans l'adverſité qu'il brille, lorſqu'il eſt bien comprimé il a un reſſort irréſiſtible.

The evening of the day on which I had ſeen the King in the field, I was at Sans-Souci; for I wiſh to neglect no opportunity of being preſent where this monarch is. I like to ſtand near him, to hear him ſpeak, and to obſerve his movements, attitudes, and moſt indifferent actions. He always behaves with particular affability to the Duke of Hamilton. One evening, before the play began, his Grace and I were ſtanding accidentally with Count Finkenſtein, in a room adjoining to the great apartment where the company were. The King entered alone, when he was not expected, and immediately began a converſation with the Duke.

He aſked ſeveral queſtions relating to the Britiſh conſtitution; particularly at what age a peer could take his ſeat in parliament?—When the Duke replied, At twenty-one—It is evident from that, ſaid the King, that the Engliſh Patricians acquire the neceſſary talents for legiſlation much ſooner than thoſe of ancient Rome, who were not admitted into the Senate till the age of forty.

He then enquired about the ſtate of Lord Chatham's health, and expreſſed high eſteem for the character of that miniſter.—He aſked me, if I had received letters by the laſt poſt, and if they mentioned any thing of the affairs in America? He ſaid, there were accounts from Holland, that the Engliſh troops had been driven from Boſton, and that the Americans were in poſſeſſion of that place.——I told him, our letters informed us, that the army had left Boſton to make an attack with more effect elſewhere.

He ſmiled, and ſaid—If you will not allow the retreat to have been an affair of neceſſity, you will at leaſt admit, that it was *tout-à-fait à-propos*.

He ſaid he heard that ſome Britiſh officers had gone into the American ſervice, and mentioned Colonel Lee, whom he had ſeen at his Court. He obſerved, that it was a difficult thing to govern men by force at ſuch a diſtance; that if the Americans ſhould be beat (which appeared a little problematical), ſtill it would be next to impoſſible to continue to draw from them a revenue by taxation; that if we intended conciliation with America, ſome of our meaſures were too rough; and if we intended its ſubjection, they were too gentle. He concluded by ſaying, *Enfin, Meſſieurs, je ne comprends pas ces choſes là; je n'ai point de colonie:—j'eſpère que vous vous tirerez bien d'affaire, mais elle me paroit un peu épineuſe.*——Having ſaid this, he walked into the Princeſs's apartment, to lead her to the playhouſe, while we joined the company already aſſembled there.—The tragedy of Mahomet was performed, which, in my opinion, is the fineſt of all Voltaire's dramatic pieces, and that in which Le Kain appears to the greateſt advantage.

LETTER LXXVI.

Potſdam.

YOU expreſs ſuch an earneſt deſire to be made acquainted with every thing which regards the King of Pruſſia, that I am in danger of lengthening my deſcriptions with a tedious minuteneſs. Yet I will riſk it, rather than give you reaſon to complain that I have not gratified your curioſity as fully as is in my power.

Do not imagine, however, that I preſume to draw a complete portrait of this monarch. That muſt be the work of much abler painters, who have ſeen him in a more familiar manner, and whoſe colours can give an expreſſion worthy of the original. I ſhall only attempt to give a faithful ſketch of ſuch features as I was able to ſeize during the tranſient views I myſelf had, or which I have learnt from thoſe who have paſſed with him many of the hours which he dedicates to free converſation, and the pleaſures of the table.

The King of Pruſſia is below the middle ſize, well made, and remarkably active for his time of life. He has become hardy by exerciſe and a laborious life; for his conſtitution originally ſeems to have been none of the ſtrongeſt. His look announces ſpirit and penetration. He has fine blue eyes; and, in my opinion, his countenance upon the whole is agreeable. Some who have ſeen him are of a different opinion. All who judge from his portraits only, muſt be ſo; for although I have ſeen many which have a little reſemblance of him, and ſome which have a great deal, yet none of them do him juſtice. His features acquire a wonderful degree of animation while he converſes.—This is entirely loſt upon canvas.

He ſtoops conſiderably, and inclines his head almoſt conſtantly to one ſide.

His tone of voice is the cleareſt and moſt agreeable in converſation I ever heard.

He ſpeaks a great deal; yet thoſe who hear him, regret that he does not ſpeak a great deal more. His obſervations are always lively, very often juſt, and few men poſſeſs the talent of repartee in greater perfection.

He hardly ever varies his dreſs, which conſiſts of a blue coat, lined and faced with red, and a yellow waiſtcoat and breeches. He always wears boots, with huſſar tops, which fall in wrinkles about his ancles, and are oftener of a dark brown than a black colour.

His hat would be thought extravagantly large in England, though it is of the ſize commonly uſed by the Pruſſian officers of cavalry. He generally wears one of the large ſide corners over his forehead and eyes, and the front cock at one ſide.

He wears his hair cued behind, and dreſſed with a ſingle buckle on each ſide. From their being very careleſly put up and unequally powdered, we may naturally conclude, that the friſeur has been greatly hurried in the execution of his office.

He uſes a very large gold ſnuff-box, the lid ornamented with diamonds, and takes an immoderate quantity of Spaniſh ſnuff, the marks of which very often appear on his waiſtcoat and breeches. Theſe are alſo liable to be ſoiled by the paws of two or three Italian greyhounds, which he often careſſes.

He dreſſes as ſoon as he gets up in the morning. This takes up but a few minutes, and ſerves for the whole day.—You have often heard that the King of Pruſſia's hours from four or five in the morning, till ten at night, are all dedicated methodically to particular occupations, either of buſineſs or amuſement. This is certainly true; and the arrangement has not ſuſtained ſuch an interruption for many years, as ſince the preſent company came to Potſdam.

Some who pretend to more than common penetration aſſert, that at preſent they can perceive marks of uneaſineſs in his countenance, and ſeem convinced, that there will not be ſuch another company at Sans-Souci during this reign.

All buſineſs with the King is tranſacted by letters. Every petition or propoſal muſt be made in this form, which is adhered to ſo invariably, as I have been aſſured, that if any of his Generals wiſhed to promote a cadet to the rank of an enſign, he would not venture to make his propoſal in any other manner, even though he had daily opportunities of converſing with his Majeſty.

The meaneſt of his ſubjects may apply to him in writing, and are ſure of an anſwer. His firſt buſineſs every morning is the peruſing the papers addreſſed to him. A ſingle word wrote with his pencil in the margin, indicates the anſwer to be given, which is afterwards made out in form by his ſecretaries.—This method affords the King time to deliberate on the juſtice and propriety of every demand, and prevents the poſſibility of his being ſurpriſed into a promiſe, which it might be inconvenient to perform.

He ſits down to dinner preciſely at noon. Of late he allows more time to this repaſt than formerly. It is generally after three before he leaves the company. Eight or nine of his officers are commonly invited to dine with him. Since our coming to Potſdam, Count Neſſelrode, and the Abbé Baſtiani, two men of letters, were the only company, beſides the officers, who dined with the King, while he lived in his uſual way at the Old Palace of Sans-Souci; and thoſe two were then of his party almoſt every day. The Count has now left this

Court; the Abbé has an apartment in the Palace. He is an Italian by birth, a man of wit, and an excellent companion.

At table, the King likes that every perſon ſhould appear to be on a footing, and that the converſation ſhould be carried on with perfect freedom. The thing, by the way, is impoſſible. That confidential unreſtrained flow of the heart, which takes place in a ſociety of equals, is a pleaſure which a deſpotic Prince can never taſte. However, his Majeſty deſires that it may be ſo, and they make the beſt of it they can.

At one of theſe meetings, when the King was in a gay humour, he ſaid to Baſtiani,—When you ſhall obtain the tiara, which your exemplary piety muſt one day procure you, how will you receive me when I arrive at Rome to pay my duty to your Holineſs?—I will immediately give orders, replied the Abbé, with great readineſs, *Qu'on faſſe entrer l'aigle noir—qu'il* *me couvre de ſes ailes, mais—qu'il m'épargne de ſon bec.*

Nobody ſays more lively things in converſation than the King himſelf. Many of his bon mots are repeated here. I ſhall only mention one, which is at once an inſtance of his wit, and greatneſs of mind, in rendering juſtice to the merit of a man who has cauſed him more vexation than perhaps any other perſon alive.—When the King of Pruſſia had a perſonal meeting ſome years ſince with the Emperor; they always dined together, a certain number of their principal officers being with them. One day, General Laudohn was going to place himſelf at the bottom of the table, when the King, who was at the head, called to him, *Venez, je vous en prie, Monſieur Laudohn, placez vous ici. J' aime infiniment mieux vous avoir de mon cotè que vis-à-vis.*

Though all the cordiality of friendſhip, and the full charms of unreſerved ſociety, cannot exiſt where the fortune of every other individual depends on the will of one of the company; yet the King endeavours to put every one as much at his eaſe as the nature of the caſe will admit, and I have heard of his bearing ſome very ſevere retorts with perfect good humour. He has too much wit himſelf, and is too fond of it in others, to repel its attacks with any other weapons than thoſe which it furniſhes. None but the moſt abſurd of dunces could attempt to rally, without being able to allow of raillery; and only the meaneſt of ſouls would think of revenging the liberties taken with a companion by the power of a King.

A very ſtriking inſtance of the freedom which may be uſed with him occurred a little before the late reviews, and what makes it more remarkable, it happened, not during the gaiety of the table, but on the very ſcene of military ſtrictneſs.

Two regiments were in the field. That of General —— was one of them. This officer is fond of company, and paſſes more of his time in the ſociety of ſtrangers, and with the foreign miniſters, than moſt others in the Pruſſian ſervice.—Something, it is probable, had chagrined the King that morning. While the regiment advanced in a line, he ſaid to the General, who ſtood near him, Votre regiment n'eſt pas aligné, Monſieur ——, et ce n'eſt pas ſurprenant, vous jouez tant aux cartes. The General called out inſtantly with a loud voice to the regiment, Alte! and they immediately ſtopped: then, turning to the King, he ſaid, Il n'eſt pas queſtion, Sire, de mes cartes—Mais, ayez la bonté de regarder ſi ce regiment n'eſt pas aligné.—The regiment was in a very ſtraight line, and the King moved away without ſpeaking, and ſeemingly diſpleaſed, not with the General, but with himſelf.—This manly officer never had reaſon afterwards to believe that the King had taken his freedom amiſs.

I have already ſaid, that it is abſolutely impoſſible for any man to enjoy an office in the King of Pruſſia's ſervice without performing the duty of it. He is himſelf active and aſſiduous, and he makes it a point that all his miniſters and ſervants ſhall be ſo too. But to thoſe who know their buſineſs, and perform it exactly, he is an eaſy and equitable maſter.

A gentleman, who has been many years about his perſon, and is now one of his aid-de-camps, aſſured me of this:—The King underſtands what ought to be done: and his ſervants are never expoſed to the ridiculous or contradictory orders of ignorance, or the mortifications of caprice.

His favourites, of whatever kind, never were able to acquire influence over him in any thing regarding buſineſs. Nobody ever knew better how to diſcriminate the merit of thoſe who ſerve him in the important departments of ſtate, from theirs who contribute to his amuſement. A man who performs the duty of his office with alertneſs and fidelity, has nothing to apprehend from the King's being fond of the company and converſation of his enemy. Let the one be regaled at the King's table every day, while the other never receives a ſingle invitation; yet the real merit of both is known:—and if his adverſary ſhould ever try to turn the King's favour to the purpoſes of private hatred or malice, the attempt will be repelled with diſdain, and the evil he intended to another, will fall on himſelf.

LETTER LXXVII.

Potſdam.

ON the days when there is no public court at Sans-Souci, we generally dine with Lord Marechal, who is always happy to ſee the Duke of Hamilton, and is of great ſervice to all Britiſh ſubjects while they remain here or at Berlin. Excluſive of other reaſons he may have for eſteeming the Duke, his Lordſhip evidently diſplays a kind of partiality for his Grace, as the firſt man in point of rank belonging to his country. This appears in a thouſand inſtances; for with very liberal ſentiments, and a moſt benevolent heart, this venerable nobleman ſtill retains a few Caledonian prejudices.

He aſked one day of the Duke, If he reckoned himſelf a Scotchman? Moſt certainly I do, replied his Grace. By ſo doing you lie under a miſtake, ſaid my Lord; for I can aſſure you, and I am convinced the beſt lawyers in England will do the ſame, that you have a much juſter claim to all the privileges belonging to your Engliſh title of Brandon, though ſome of them, I fear, are ſtill diſputed.

It is to be hoped, ſaid the Duke, that the Houſe of Peers will not always refuſe to do my family juſtice; on a thorough examination of the caſe, I ſtill flatter myſelf they will grant me thoſe privileges, which have been, for no valid reaſons, refuſed my anceſtors. But in the mean time, why will your Lordſhip, more cruel than the Peers, deny my birth-right as a Scotchman?

Becauſe your birth gives you no ſuch right, replied the Earl; for you in reality are but a North-Briton :—unleſs your Grace can prove that you were born before the Union. But, continued he, with an air of triumph, I am a real Scotchman: —— —— —— adding a little after, with a ſigh, and in a plaintive accent —— —— and almoſt the only one in the world —— All the Scots of my acquaintance are now dead.

The good old Earl is infinitely fond of talking of his country, and of the days of former years. When I make any enquiry about the King of Pruſſia, or concerning Spain or Italy, in which country he reſided ſo long, he anſwers with a kind of complaiſant brevity, and immediately turns the diſcourſe back to Scotland, to which his heart ſeems wonderfully attached.

In the time of dinner, one of his ſervants, a ſtout highlander, generally entertains the company by playing on the bagpipe. I have obſerved, that theſe North

Britons (to abide by Lord Marechal's diſtinction) who are the moſt zealous for the intereſt and honour of their country, and who value themſelves on being born north of the Tweed, are particularly, if not excluſively, fond of this inſtrument. You will, at leaſt, allow that your gallant friend, Lord Eglintoun, is no exception to this obſervation; and perhaps you will admit, that it requires a conſiderable degree of patriotiſm, or *amor Caledoniæ*, to have a great reliſh for the melody of a bagpipe.

I called on Lord Marechal one afternoon, juſt as the King had left him: for the monarch, without any form or previous notice, ſometimes walks through the garden, and pays a ſhort viſit to his old friend, to whom he has an unalterable attachment, both from perſonal regard, and on account of the high eſtimation in which he holds the memory of his brother Marechal Keith.

Another day I was with the Earl, when the Princeſſes of Pruſſia and Heſſe, with Prince Frederic of Brunſwic, all entered and demanded coffee, which my Lord immediately ordered, with the addition of a couple of melons; telling the Princeſſes, he knew they would not ſtay long enough with a man of eighty, to give time for preparing a better repaſt.—Thus favoured by the monarch and the Princeſs, you will not doubt that the old Earl's friendſhip is cultivated by the reſt of the court.

The Hereditary Prince of Pruſſia lives in a ſmall houſe in the town of Potſdam. His appointments do not admit of that degree of magnificence, which might be expected in the Heir of the Crown:—but he diſplays a ſpirit of hoſpitality far more obliging than magnificence; and doubly meritorious, conſidering the very moderate revenue allowed him. We generally ſup there two or three times a week.

This Prince is not often of the King's parties, nor is it imagined that he enjoys a great ſhare of his uncle's favour. In what degree he poſſeſſes the talents of a general is not known, as he was too young to have any command during the late war. But he certainly has a very juſt underſtanding, which has been improved by ſtudy. He has taken ſome pains to acquire the Engliſh language, to which he was induced by an admiration of ſeveral Engliſh authors, whoſe works he had read in French and German. He is now able to read Engliſh proſe with tolerable facility, and has been of late ſtudying Shakeſpear, having actually read two or three of his plays.

I took the liberty to obſerve, that as Shakeſpear's genius had traced every labyrinth, and penetrated into every receſs of the human heart, his ſentiments could not fail to pleaſe his Royal Highneſs; but, as his language was uncommonly bold and figurative, and full of alluſions to national cuſtoms, and the manners of our iſland two centuries ago, the Engliſh themſelves, who had not made a particular ſtudy of his works, did not always comprehend their full energy. I added, that to transfuſe the ſoul of Shakeſpear into a tranſlation, was impoſſible; and to taſte all his beauties in the original, required ſuch a knowledge of the Engliſh manners and language as few foreigners, even after a long reſidence in the capital, could attain.

The Prince ſaid, he was aware of all this; yet he was determined to ſtruggle hard for ſome acquaintance with an author ſo much admired by the Engliſh nation; that though he ſhould never be able to taſte all his excellencies, he was convinced he ſhould underſtand enough to recompence him for his trouble; that he had already ſtudied ſome detach'd parts, which he thought ſuperior to any thing he had ever met with in the works of any other Poet.

His Royal Highneſs attends to military buſineſs with as much aſſiduity as moſt officers of the ſame rank in the army; for in the Pruſſian ſervice, no degree of eminence in the article of birth can excuſe a remiſſion in the duties of that profeſſion. He is much eſteemed by the army, and conſidered as an exceeding good officer. To the frankneſs of a ſoldier he joins the integrity of a German, and is beloved by the public in general, on account of his good-nature, affability, and humane turn of mind.

LETTER LXXVIII.

Potſdam.

I AM afraid you will think the anecdotes and converſation which I ſometimes ſend you are rather tedious. Your curioſity about certain characters has led me into this practice; for I chooſe to give you opportunities of forming an opinion of your own, rather than to trouble you with mine. My opinion might very probably be erroneous; the accounts I give of what I have ſeen or heard are always true. And, notwithſtanding that the actions and converſations I relate may be apparently of ſmall importance, ſtill as the perſons in ſome meaſure deſcribe themſelves, an underſtanding like yours will be able from thence to draw juſter ideas of character than I could have given.

In a former letter I mentioned the great difficulty of deſerting from a Pruſſian garriſon, and of what importance it is thought to prevent it. An accident which happened a few days ſince, will give you a ſtronger idea of this than any general account.

Two ſoldiers of the Prince of Pruſſia's regiment got over the walls in the nighttime, with an intention to deſert; but, unluckily for them, this town ſtands on a peninſula formed by the river, and the neck of land is guarded in ſuch a manner that it is almoſt impoſſible to paſs that way without permiſſion. Theſe men could not ſwim, and they durſt not preſent themſelves at any of the ferries, becauſe the boatmen are forbid, under the ſevereſt penalties, to connive at the eſcape of any deſerters, and ſtrictly ordered to aſſiſt in apprehending them. A reward is alſo offered, as a greater inducement to this piece of ſervice.

All theſe circumſtances being known in the garriſon, it was imagined that, as none of the peaſants would in all probability venture to harbour them, they were ſtill ſkulking in the fields, among the ſtanding corn. On this ſuppoſition, parties of men were employed for three days ſucceſſively in traverſing the fields, and beating the buſhes, as if they had been in chaſe of a hare. Great numbers of the officers of this regiment, ſome of the higheſt rank, rode about for three or four hours every day, all employed in the ſame manner. But not finding the men, they were at laſt convinced that they had by ſome means or other got out of the peninſula, and all further ſearch was given up as unneceſſary.

On the morning of the fourth day, theſe two unfortunate men came and ſurrendered to the guard at one of the gates. Finding it impracticable to effect their eſcape, and not daring to enter a houſe, they were at length compelled, by hunger and fatigue, to deliver themſelves up.

Before I cloſe this letter, I will give you an account of an adventure of an affecting nature, which happened in the King's family, at the time when all theſe reſearches were made for the two deſerters.

The King's principal valet-de-chambre was a man conſiderably reſpected. Having conſtant opportunities of being about the King's perſon, and having enjoyed his approbation for ſeveral years, people of the firſt rank paid him ſome degree of attention. He was liked by his acquaintances, as I have been told, on account of his perſonal qualities, and had accumulated a little fortune by the perquiſites of his office. He had built a houſe near that of my Lord Marechal, and kept a coach for the uſe of his miſtreſs.

It was this man's misfortune to diſoblige the King, probably by ſome neglect of duty; or it might poſſibly be ſomething worſe:—I never could hear exactly how this had happened:—But while the Princeſſes were at the New Palace, the King had blamed him in very ſharp terms; and not being ſatisfied with the excuſes the man made, he told him, that as ſoon as the company was gone, he ſhould be taken care of.

When the Princeſſes went to Berlin, his Majeſty returned to his old palace at Sans-Souci: and the day after, he ſent for an officer of his guards, and ordered him to conduct this man to Potſdam, and place him in the quality of a drummer in the firſt regiment of foot-guards.

The poor man endeavoured to pacify his maſter by prayers and entreaties, but without ſucceſs.—He then ſaid to the officer, that there were ſome things in his room which he wiſhed to put in order before he went, and deſired that he might be allowed a little time for that purpoſe. The officer readily aſſented, and as ſoon as this deſperate man had entered his own apartment, he ſeized a piſtol, which he had prepared from the time the King had threatened him, and immediately ſhot himſelf through the head. The report of the piſtol alarmed the King and the officer. —They both went into the room, and found the poor creature expiring.

Though the King certainly had no idea that his valet would ſhoot himſelf; and though, it is moſt probable, he would not have allowed him to remain long in the ſituation to which, in a fit of reſentment, he had condemned him;—yet there is ſomething exceedingly harſh in daſhing a man at once from a ſituation of eaſe and reſpect, into a ſphere of life ſo very different.—Such an order was more becoming the fury of an intemperate deſpot, than the dignity of ſo great and ſo wiſe a monarch as the King of Pruſſia.

I converſed with a perſon who had been at Sans-Souci immediately after this melancholy event.—He ſaid the King ſeemed to be very much affected.—If he felt it as he ought, he was an object of compaſſion; if he did not, he was ſtill more ſo, for nothing can be a greater misfortune to a man than to want humanity.

LETTER LXXIX.

Dreſden.

I Believe I neglected to mention in any of my letters from Berlin, that when I viſited the manufactory of porcelain, I was ſo much ſtruck with the beauty of ſome of it, that I ordered a ſmall box for you. But as I take it to be a matter of indifference, whether you ſip your tea out of the china you have already, or this, you may ſend it as a preſent to the female you love and eſteem moſt. If by this direction it ſhould not go ſtraight from you to Miſs ——, pray let me know to whom you ſend it. The factor at Hamburgh will give you notice when he ſhips it off.

I did not imagine that this manufactory had arrived at ſuch a degree of perfection as it has in ſeveral places in Germany, particularly at Brunſwic and Berlin. The parcel I have ordered for you, is thought equal to the fineſt made at Dreſden.

The day we left Potſdam we dined with good Lord Marechal, who took leave of the Duke, with an emotion which at once marked his regard for his Grace, and his fears that he ſhould never ſee him again.

If I were ſtrongly in a humour for deſcription, our journey through the moſt beautiful and moſt fertile part of Germany would afford me a fair opportunity. I not only could ring over the whole chimes of woods, meadows, rivers, and mountains, rich crops of grain, flax, tobacco, and hops; I might animate the landſcapes with a copious breed of horſes, black cattle, ſheep, wild boars, and veniſon, and vary the deſcription with the marble, precious ſtones, and mines of lead, copper, iron, and ſilver, which Saxony contains within its bowels. I might expatiate on the fine china ware, and fine women, that abound in this country, formed of the fineſt clay in Germany, et très joliment travaillées;—but I am long ſince tired of deſcription, and therefore beg leave to convey you at once from Potſdam to Dreſden.

Having been preſented to the Elector and Electreſs by Mr. Oſborn, the Britiſh miniſter here, we had the honour of dining with them the ſame day. The Electreſs is young, tall, well-made, and lively.—We were afterwards preſented to the Electreſs Dowager, and to the Princeſs Elizabeth, the Elector's aunt, to the Princeſs, his ſiſter, and to his three brothers, the eldeſt of whom has loſt the uſe of his legs, and is moved about the room in a chair with wheels.

The court was numerous and ſplendid, in the evening there was card-playing for about two hours. The Duke of Hamilton was of the Electreſs's party, while I played two rubbers at whiſt with one of the Princeſſes, againſt the Electreſs Dowager and the Princeſs Elizabeth.—I have never ſeen deep gaming at any of the German courts.—What has approached neareſt to it, has been at maſquerades, or where the Sovereign was not preſent.

Dreſden, though not one of the largeſt, is certainly one of the moſt agreeable cities in Germany, whether we conſider its ſituation, the magnificence of its palaces, or the beauty and conveniency of the houſes and ſtreets. This city is built on both ſides of the Elbe, which is of a conſiderable breadth here. The magnificent and commodious manner in which the two oppoſite parts of the town are joined, adds greatly to its beauty.

There is an equeſtrian ſtatue of King Auguſtus, in a kind of open place or ſquare,

between

between the old city and the new. The workmanſhip is but indifferent; however, I was deſired by our Cicerone to admire this very much, becauſe——it was made by a common ſmith. I begged to be excuſed, telling him that I could not admire it, had it been made by Michael Angelo.

Few Princes in Europe are ſo magnificently lodged as the Elector of Saxony. The Palace and Muſeum have been often deſcribed.—The laſt was begun by the Elector Auguſtus, and ſtill retains the name of the Green Room, though it now conſiſts of ſeveral apartments, all painted green, in imitation of the firſt. I will not enumerate the prodigious number of curioſities, natural and artificial, to be ſeen there. Some of the laſt are curious, only becauſe they are inviſible to the human eye. Of this number, is a cherry-ſtone, upon which, by the help of a microſcope, above a hundred faces may be diſtinguiſhed. Undoubtedly theſe little mechanical whims diſplay the labour, perſeverance, and minute attention of the workman; but I cannot think they are proofs of the wiſdom of thoſe who could employ artiſts to ſo little purpoſe. Let the aſtoniſhing minutiæ of nature be admired through microſcopes; but ſurely nothing is a proper work for the hands of man, which cannot be ſeen by the unaided human eye.

A work of the jeweller Dinglinger, which repreſents the celebration of the Mogul's birth-day, is much admired. The Mogul ſitting on his throne, his grandees and guards, with a great many elephants, are all exhibited upon a table about an ell ſquare. This work employed Dinglinger, and ſome aſſiſtants, above ten years. Do not you think this was leaving ſo ingenious an artiſt a little too long in the Mogul's ſervice?

A ſimple liſt of every thing valuable and curious in this Muſeum, would exceed the bounds of one of my longeſt letters; I ſhall therefore paſs them all over in ſilence, except the ſtory of the prophet Jonah, which it would be impious to omit. The ſhip, the whale, the prophet, and the ſea-ſhore, are all repreſented in pearl; but the ſea and rocks are in a different kind of ſtone, though, in my opinion, there was no occaſion to vary the materials: for ſurely there is as great a difference between a prophet and a whale, as between a whale and a rock. So that if the firſt two could be repreſented with the ſame materials, I do not think it was worth while to change the compoſition for the third.

The gallery of pictures is highly eſteemed. To enumerate the particular merits of each, would fill many volumes, and requires a far greater knowledge of painting than I can pretend to. The moſt valuable pieces are by Corregio and Rubens. There are three or four by the former, and of his moſt capital works; and a very conſiderable number of the latter. The ſtrength and expreſſion of this great artiſt's pencil, the natural glow of his colouring, and the fertility of his fancy, deſerve the higheſt encomiums. Yet one cannot help regretting, that he had ſo violent a paſſion for fat women. That kind of nature which he had ſeen early in life in his own country, had laid ſuch hold of his imagination, that it could not be eradicated by all the elegant models he afterwards ſtudied in Italy. Some of his female figures in this gallery are ſo much of the Dutch make, and ſo fat, that it is rather oppreſſive to look at them in this very hot weather.

In the Muſeum, within the Palace, there is a moſt complete collection of prints, from the commencement of the art of engraving till the preſent time.

LETTER LXXX.

Dreſden.

NOTHING ſeems clearer to me, than that a fortified town ſhould have no palaces within it, and no ſuburbs without. As the city of Dreſden has both, it would have been well for the inhabitants, during the laſt war, that the town had been entirely without fortifications. In the year 1756, when the King of Pruſſia thought it expedient to invade Saxony, he made himſelf maſter of this city, and kept peaceable poſſeſſion of it till 1758, when Marechal Daun, after the battle of Hochkirchen, threatened to beſiege it. The Pruſſian General Schmettau began his defence by burning part of the ſuburbs. The Saxons and Auſtrians exclaimed at this meaſure, and Daun threatened to make the governor anſwerable, in his own perſon, for ſuch deſperate proceedings. Count Schmettau was totally regardleſs of their exclamations and threats, and ſeemed attentive only to the orders of the King his maſter. He gave Marechal Daun to underſtand, that the remaining ſuburbs would ſhare the fate of thoſe already deſtroyed, if he perſiſted in attacking the town. The King appearing ſoon after, the Auſtrians retreated into Bohemia.

The inhabitants of Dreſden, and all Saxony, were now in a very diſmal ſituation, and found their hardſhips increaſe in proportion to the ſucceſs of their friends and allies; for whatever exactions were raiſed in the King of Pruſſia's dominions by the Auſtrians and Ruſſians, the like were impoſed by way of retaliation on the miſerable Saxons. A people muſt be in a deplorable ſtate indeed, when the ſucceſs of their enemies is the moſt fortunate thing which can befal them.

In 1759, after the dreadful battle of Cunerſdorf, near Frankfort on the Oder, the King of Pruſſia being neceſſitated to repair the ſlaughter of that day, withdrew the Pruſſian garriſon from Dreſden, which then fell into the hands of the Imperialiſts. But the calamities of this city did not end here; for his Pruſſian Majeſty having deceived Marechal Daun by a very maſterly feint, while he ſeemed to bend his courſe for Sileſia, he wheeled ſuddenly about, and threatened Dreſden, which Marechal Daun had abandoned, in the full conviction, that the King had marched to the relief of Schweidnitz. While the Auſtrians hurried on by forced marches into Sileſia, the King attacked Dreſden, which was reſolutely defended by General Macquire.

Every poſſible effort was made to reduce this city before Count Daun ſhould return to its relief;—and the wretched citizens were expoſed to a continued cannonade and bombardment. This perhaps was juſtifiable by the laws of war, as long as there were hopes that the town might be brought to ſurrender by ſuch means.—But the enemies of his Pruſſian Majeſty aſſert, that the bombardment was continued, and churches, fine buildings, and whole ſtreets, laid in aſhes, even after Marechal Daun's return; and when theſe vindictive proceedings could only tend to the ruin and deſtruction of private people, without contributing in the ſmalleſt degree to the reducing the town, or being of any uſe to the public cauſe.

Many of theſe houſes ſtill lie in rubbiſh; but the inhabitants are gradually rebuilding, and probably all the ruined ſtreets will be repaired before a new war breaks out in Germany. While they rebuild the houſes, I cannot help thinking it would be fortunate for the proprietors, that they were allowed to deſtroy the fortifications, which perhaps might be placed with more advantage around ſome towns on the frontiers.

The curious manufactory of porcelain ſuffered conſiderably by the Pruſſian bombardment. The Elector has a complete collection of the fineſt pieces, from the firſt attempts made here in this elegant work, to the lateſt improvements. This, independent of the beauty of many of the pieces, is a matter of real curioſity, as it marks the progreſs of ingenuity and invention.

Our morning-walk is in the gardens of the late Count Bruhl, ſituated on the high banks of the Elbe. Nothing can be imagined more delightful than the view from a lofty terrace in theſe gardens. The Count's magnificent houſe is now ſtript of many of its greateſt ornaments. The fine collection of paintings has been ſold to the Empreſs of Ruſſia for 150,000 rixdollars. The library, which is in the garden, is two hundred and twenty feet long. I am not certain, whether it was abſolutely neceſſary to have ſo large a room for containing this nobleman's books; but it muſt have required one of that ſize at leaſt for his wardrobe, if the account that is given of it be juſt. They tell us, that the Count had at leaſt three hundred different ſuits of clothes; each of theſe had a duplicate, as he always ſhifted his clothes after dinner, and did not chooſe that his dreſs ſhould appear different in the afternoon from what it had been in the morning. A painting of each ſuit, with the particular cane and ſnuff-box belonging to it, was very accurately drawn in a large book, which was preſented to his Excellency every morning by his Valet de Chambre, that he might fix upon the dreſs in which he wiſhed to appear for the day. This miniſter was accuſed of having accumulated a great fortune. The reverſe of this, however, is true. His houſe and gardens belong now to the Elector.

The Saxon troops make a very fine appearance. The men in general are handſome and well made. Neither they nor their officers are ſo very upright and ſtiff in their manners, as the Pruſſians. Having been ſo long accuſtomed to theſe laſt, this difference ſtruck me very ſtrongly at firſt ſight. The uniform of the guards is red and yellow; that of the marching regiments white. The ſoldiers, during the ſummer, wear only waiſtcoats, even when they mount guard; and always appear extremely neat and clean. The ſerjeants, beſides their other arms, have a large piſtol. This is ſo commodiouſly faſtened to the left ſide, that it gives no trouble. The band of muſic belonging to the Saxon guards is the moſt complete and the fineſt I ever ſaw.

I do not expect to receive any accounts from you till we arrive at Vienna; but I ſhall probably write again from Prague, for which place we intend to ſet out to-morrow.

LETTER LXXXI.

Prague.

BOHEMIA, though by no means ſo fertile, or ſo fine a country as Saxony, does not deſerve the bad character which ſome travellers have given it. I thought many places very beautiful, and varied with the moſt agreeable rural objects.

Prague, the capital of Bohemia, ſtands in a hollow, ſurrounded on all ſides with hills. Thoſe neareſt the town, and which command it, are comprehended within the fortifications. It is a very large town, retaining ſome marks of former ſplendor, but many more evident ſymptoms of preſent decay—Symptoms which naturally attend thoſe places which once have been the reſidence of royalty, and are ſo no more.

All the houſes, with any appearance of magnificence, are old, and it is not probable that any new ones will be built in that ſtyle: for the Bohemian nobility, who are in circumſtances to bear ſuch an expence, live at Vienna, and the trade and manufactures of this town are not ſufficient to enable any of the mercantile people to build fine houſes.

In whatever degree this city may have dwindled in wealth and magnificence, the piety of the inhabitants certainly flouriſhes as much as ever. I do not recollect to have ſeen ſo many glaring marks of devotion in any place. The corners of the ſtreets, bridges, and public buildings, are all ornamented with crucifixes, images of the Virgin of all ſizes and complexions, and ſtatues of Saints of every country, condition, age, and ſex. People are to be ſeen on their knees before theſe ſtatues in every part of this city, but particularly on the large bridge over the Moldaw, where there is the greateſt concourſe of paſſengers. This bridge is ſo profuſely adorned with the ſtatues of Saints, that, croſſing over it, you have a row of them on each ſide, like two ranks of muſketeers.

Travellers, eſpecially ſuch as arrive directly from Berlin, muſt be aſtoniſhed at the people's devotion in this city, and in a particular manner at the vehemence with which it is expreſſed by thoſe who exhibit before the Saints upon the bridge.

Not contented with kneeling, I ſaw ſome proſtrate themſelves on their faces, kiſſing the earth; and others, who offered their petitions to theſe Saints with ſuch earneſtneſs and fervour, that, if their hearts had not been of ſtone, they muſt have paid more attention to the petitioners than they ſeemed to do.

There is one ſaint who has more votaries than all the reſt put together—Saint Nepomuc, I think they call him:—As my acquaintance with Saints is not extenſive, I never heard of him till I came hither, but his reputation is very great in this town. This ſaint, it ſeems, was ordered by ſome cruel tyrant, to be thrown over a bridge, his neck was broke by the fall, notwithſtanding of which, he is ſuppoſed to retain a particular affection for bridges ever ſince; an effect ſomething different from what was to have been expected from the cauſe; however, the people here are perſuaded, that ſo it happened to Saint Nepomuc; and to put the fact beyond controverſy, he is at this moment the tutelar Saint of bridges;—almoſt all thoſe in Bohemia are dedicated to him. He has alſo the reputation of excelling every Saint in heaven in the cure of barrenneſs in women. —How his character for this was eſtabliſhed, I did not enquire.

It is a melancholy reflection, that the wealthy are more careleſs about religious duties than the indigent, and that poverty and piety are ſo often linked together. I often obſerved, when we ſtopped at any town or village, which had ſymptoms of great poverty, that the inhabitants ſeemed alſo unuſually devout.

It would appear, that hope is a more powerful ſentiment in the human breaſt than gratitude, ſince thoſe who ought to feel the greateſt thankfulneſs to Heaven, diſplay the leaſt.

We found an acquaintance at Prague when we leaſt expected it; for as the Duke of Hamilton and I ſtood talking in the ſtreets, a prieſt, who belongs to a ſeminary of learning in this town, overheard us; upon which he ſtopped, and after looking at us very earneſtly for ſome time, he at length came up, and addreſſed us in theſe words:—I do aſſure you now, I am an Iriſhman too. This eaſy kind of introduction ſoon produced a degree of intimacy; I aſked, how he knew ſo readily that we were Iriſh? Am I not after hearing you ſpeak Engliſh, my dear? replied the honeſt prieſt, for he really was a very honeſt obliging fellow, and the moſt uſeful and entertaining Cicerone we could have had at Prague.

After having viſited the royal apartments, they ſhewed us the window in the ſecretary of ſtate's office, from whence three noblemen were thrown in the year 1618. This was rather a violent mode of turning out the people in power; but it is probable the party in oppoſition had tried gentler means in vain.

As one great uſe of hiſtory is to furniſh leſſons and examples, by which poſterity in all ages may profit, I do not think it would be amiſs to remind your friends in adminiſtration of this adventure, that they may move off quietly before their opponents take deſperate meaſures. For it has been obſerved, that the enemies of tottering ſtateſmen are much more active than their friends, who, when things come to the laſt puſh, are apt to ſtand aloof,

Like people viewing, at a diſtance,
Three men thrown out of a caſement,
Who never ſtir to their aſſiſtance,
But juſt afford them their amazement.

In caſe however a ſimilar outrage ſhould be threatened in England, it is to be hoped that Apollo (as he was wont of old when any of his friends were in danger) will interpoſe with a cloud, and ſave the Miniſter; for, in the preſent ſcarcity of wit and good humour, it would be a thouſand pities to loſe a man ſo much diſtinguiſhed for both, at one deſperate throw.

We walked over the heights, from which the Pruſſians attempted to carry the town, immediately after the defeat of Prince Charles of Lorraine and Count Brown. The bombardment of this town was a more defenſible meaſure than that of Dreſden; for while the army within were under the dejection natural after the loſs of a battle, and unprepared for a ſiege, it might be ſuppoſed, that the confuſion and terror produced by the bombardment, joined to the vaſt conſumption of proviſions by ſuch a numerous garriſon, would induce the beſieged to ſurrender. But although the King's humanity has not been called in queſtion for his conduct here, I have heard many military men cenſure him for want of prudence, particularly on account of his deſperate attempt at Kolin, when, leaving the half of his army to continue the blockade of Prague, he marched with little more than thirty thouſand men, and attacked an army of double that number, ſtrongly ſituated, and commanded by one of the ableſt generals of the age.

After all, it is more than probable, that the King had very good reaſons for his conduct. But as the attempt was unſucceſsful, and as the ſad reverſe of the Pruſſian affairs may be dated from that epoch, the voice of cenſure has been very loud in blaming an action, which would have been exalted to the ſkies had it been crowned with ſucceſs. If Hannibal had by any accident been defeated at Cannæ, it is very poſſible, that hiſtorians would have found out many reaſons why he ſhould not have fought that battle, and would have endeavoured to prove, that his former victories had been gained by chance, and that he was a mere ignoramus in the art of war.

Adieu, my good friend; I wiſh you good luck in all your undertakings, that you may continue to be reckoned by the world, a man of prudence.

LETTER LXXXII.

Vienna.

ON arriving at Vienna, the poſtillions drive directly to the Cuſtom-houſe, where the baggage undergoes a very ſevere ſcrutiny, which neither fair words nor money can mitigate. As nothing contraband was found among our baggage, it was all carried directly to our lodgings, except our books, which were retained to be examined at leiſure, and were not reſtored to us till ſome time after. The Empreſs has given ſtrict orders, that no books of impiety, lewdneſs, or immorality, ſhall be allowed to enter her dominions, or be circulated among her ſubjects; and Mahomet himſelf dares as ſoon appear publicly at Vienna as any one of them.

Unfortunately for us, Sir Robert Keith is lately gone to England, and is not expected back for ſeveral months. We have reaſon to regret the abſence of ſo agreeable and ſo worthy a man; but every advantage we could have received from him as a miniſter, has been ſupplied by his ſecretary, Mr. Erneſt; who has introduced us to the Count Degenfeldt, ambaſſador from the States-General. This gentleman furniſhed us with a liſt of the viſits proper to be made, and had the politeneſs to attend the Duke of Hamilton on this grand tour.

The firſt day we waited on Prince Kaunitz, we were invited to dine, and found a very numerous company at his houſe; many of whom, as I afterwards underſtood, had been prepoſſeſſed in our favour, by the polite and obliging letters which the Baron de Swieten had written from Berlin.

Some of the principal families are at their ſeats in the country, which we ſhould have more reaſon to regret, were it not for the politeneſs and hoſpitality of the Count and Counteſs Thune, at whoſe houſe, or that of their ſiſter the Counteſs Walſtein, there is an agreeable party every evening; among whom is the Viſcount de Laval, brother to the Marquis, whom I had the honour of knowing at Berlin. The Viſcount has been as far north as Peterſburg, and intends to make the tour of Italy before he returns to France.

The city of Vienna, properly ſo called, is not of very great extent; nor can it be enlarged, being limited by a ſtrong fortification. This town is very populous: it is thought to contain above ſeventy thouſand inhabitants. The ſtreets in general are narrow, and the houſes built high. Some of the public buildings and palaces are magnificent; but they appear externally to no great advantage, on account of the narrowneſs of the ſtreets. The chief are the Imperial Palace, the Library and Muſeum, the palaces of the Princes Lichtenſtein, Eugene, and ſome others, which I know you will excuſe me from enumerating or deſcribing.

There is no great danger that Vienna will ever again be ſubjected to the inconveniencies of a ſiege. Yet, in caſe the thing ſhould happen, a meaſure has been taken, which will prevent the neceſſity of deſtroying the ſuburbs: No houſes without the walls are allowed to be built nearer to the glacis than ſix hundred yards; ſo that there is a circular field of ſix hundred paces broad all round the town, which, excluſive of the advantage above mentioned, has a very beautiful and ſalutary effect. Beyond the plain, the ſuburbs are built.—They form a very extenſive and magnificent town, of an irregularly circular form, containing within its boſom a ſpacious field, which has for its centre the original town of Vienna.

Theſe magnificent ſuburbs, and the town together, are ſaid to contain above three hundred thouſand inhabitants; yet the former are not near ſo populous, in proportion to their ſize, as the town; becauſe many houſes of the ſuburbs have extenſive gardens belonging to them, and many families, who live during the winter within the fortifications, paſs the ſummer months in the ſuburbs.

Monſieur de Breteuil, the French ambaſſador, lives there at preſent. The Duke and I dined at his houſe a few days ago. This gentleman was attached to the Duc de Choiſeul, and had been appointed ambaſſador to this court, in which character he was about to ſet out from Paris, when that miniſter was diſmiſſed by the late King of France; upon which M. de Breteuil, inſtead of Vienna, was ſent to Naples. But ſince the new King's acceſſion, he has been eſtabliſhed at the court for which he was originally intended. He is a man of talents, and not calculated for a ſituation in which talents have little or no room for exertion.

About a week after our arrival at Vienna, we had the honour of being preſented to the Emperor. The Count Degenfeldt accompanied us to the palace between nine and ten in the morning. After walking a few minutes in an adjoining room, we were conducted into that where the emperor was alone. His manner is affable, eaſy, and gracefully plain.

The ſame forenoon we drove to Schonbrun, a palace about a league from Vienna, where the Empreſs reſides at preſent. I had no ſmall curioſity to ſee the celebrated Maria Thereſa, whoſe fortunes have intereſted Europe for ſo many years. Her magnanimity in ſupporting the calamities to which the early part of her life was expoſed, and the moderation with which ſhe has borne proſperity, have ſecured to her univerſal approbation. She alſo was alone when we were preſented. She converſed for ſome time with the Duke of Hamilton in an eaſy and cheerful manner, and behaved to all with an affable dignity. She now poſſeſſes but ſmall remains of that beauty for which ſhe was diſtinguiſhed in her youth; but her countenance indicates benevolence and good-humour. I had often heard of the ſcrupulous etiquette of the Imperial court, but have found every thing directly oppoſite to that account.

Prince Kaunitz having ſeen a young Engliſh gentleman ſcarcely fourteen years of age, whom the Duke of Hamilton patronizes, and who has accompanied us on this tour, the Prince deſired that he alſo might be preſented to the Emperor and Empreſs, which was accordingly done, and they both received him in the moſt gracious manner. I mention this circumſtance as a ſtrong proof how far they are ſuperior at this court to trifling punctilios, and how greatly they have relaxed in ceremony ſince the acceſſion of the Lorrain family.

Two or three days after this, we were preſented, at a full court, to the two unmarried Arch-ducheſſes, their ſiſter the Princeſs Albert of Saxony, and the Princeſs of Modena, who is married to the Emperor's brother. The laſt couple are lately arrived from Milan on a viſit to the Empreſs.

The Imperial family are uncommonly well-looking, and have a very ſtrong reſemblance to each other. They are all of a fair complexion, with large blue eyes, and ſome of them, particularly the Arch-duke, are diſtinguiſhed by the thick lip ſo long remarked in the Auſtrian family. The beautiful Queen of France is the handſomeſt of this family, only becauſe ſhe is the youngeſt; ſome people think that her ſiſter the Princeſs Albert has ſtill the advantage.

One of the unmarried Arch-ducheſſes, who formerly was thought the moſt beautiful, has ſuffered conſiderably by the ſmall-pox.—A lady of the court told me, that, as ſoon as this Princeſs underſtood what her diſeaſe was, ſhe called for a looking-glaſs, and with unaffected pleaſantry took leave of thoſe features ſhe had often heard praiſed, and which ſhe believed would be greatly changed before ſhe ſhould ſee them again. The diminution which the ſmall-pox has made in the beauty of this Princeſs, has not in the ſmalleſt degree impaired her good-humour, or the eſſential part of her character, which by every account is perfectly amiable.

When the King of Pruſſia ſaw his army defeated at Cunerſdorf, after he had written to the Queen that he was ſure of victory; or when any of thoſe monarchs, of whom hiſtory gives examples, were daſhed from their thrones to a ſtate of dependence or captivity, unqueſtionably it required great ſtrength of mind to bear ſuch cruel reverſes of fortune; but perhaps it requires more in a woman, whoſe beauty is admired by one half of the human race, and envied by the other, to ſupport its loſs with equanimity in all the pride of youth.—If thoſe veteran beauties, who never had any thing but their faces to give them importance, whom we ſee ſtill withering on the ſtalk, and repining that they cannot retain the bloom of May in the froſt of December, had met with ſuch an accident, it would probably have killed them at once, and ſaved them many years of deſpiſed exiſtence.

LETTER LXXXIII.

Vienna.

I Never paſſed my time more agreeably than ſince I came to Vienna. There is not ſuch a conſtant round of amuſements as to fill up a man's time without any plan or occupation of his own; and yet there is enough to ſatisfy any mind not perfectly vacant and dependent on external objects.—We dine abroad two or three times a week. We ſometimes ſee a little play, but never any deep gaming.——At the Counteſs Thune's, where I generally paſs the evening, there is no play of any kind.—The ſociety there literally form a converſazione.

I dare ſay, you will be at a loſs to imagine how a mixed company, ſometimes pretty numerous, can paſs ſeveral hours every evening, merely in converſing, eſpecially when you are told that the converſation is not always ſplit into parties and tête-à-têtes; but is very often general. You will ſuſpect there muſt be many melancholy pauſes, which, after a certain length, are prolonged, from the reluctance of people to be the firſt breakers of a very ſolemn ſilence; or you may think that ſometimes there will be ſo many tongues moving at once, that nothing can be heard diſtinctly; and you may poſſibly figure to yourſelf the lady of the houſe at other times endeavouring, by formal obſervations on the weather, or politics, to keep alive a converſation which is juſt expiring in all the yawnings of death.

Nothing of this kind, however, happens. The Counteſs has the art of entertaining a company, and of making them entertain one another, more than any perſon I ever knew. With a great deal of wit, and a perfect knowledge of the world, ſhe poſſeſſes the moſt diſintereſted heart. She is the firſt to diſcover the good qualities of her friends, and the laſt who ſees their foibles. One of her greateſt pleaſures is to remove prejudices from amongſt her acquaintances, and to promote friendſhips. She has an everlaſting flow of ſpirits, which ſhe manages with ſuch addreſs as to delight the gay, without diſpleaſing the dejected. I never knew any body have ſuch a number of friends, and ſo much generous friendſhip to beſtow on each: She is daily making new ones, without allowing her regard for the old to diminiſh. She has formed a little ſyſtem of happineſs at her own houſe, herſelf being the centre of attraction and union. Nobody is under the leaſt neceſſity of remaining a moment in this ſociety after being tired.—They may retire when they pleaſe.—No more notice is taken of the entries or exits of any perſon who has been once received, than of a fly's coming in or going out of the room.—There is not the ſhadow of reſtraint.—If you go every night, you are always treated with equal kindneſs; and if you ſtay away for a month, you are received on your return with the ſame cheerfulneſs as if you had been there every evening.

The Engliſh who come to this place are in a particular manner obliged to this family, not only for the polite reception they generally meet with, but alſo for the opportunities this affords them of forming an acquaintance with the principal people at Vienna. And I imagine there is no city in Europe where a young gentleman, after his univerſity education is finiſhed, can paſs a year with ſo great advantage; becauſe, if properly recommended, he may mix on an eaſy footing, with people of rank, and have opportunities of improving by the converſation of ſenſible men and accompliſhed women. In no capital could he ſee fewer examples, or have fewer opportunities of deep gaming, open profligacy, or groſs debauchery. He may learn to paſs his time agreeably, independent of a continued round of amuſements.—He may be gradually led to enjoy rational converſation, and at length acquire the bleſſed faculty of being ſatisfied with moderate pleaſures.

To the politeneſs of the Counteſs Thune, and the recommendation of the Baron Swieten, I am indebted for the agreeable footing I am on with Prince Kaunitz, who at preſent lives at Laxenberg, a pleaſant village about ten miles from Vienna, where there is a ſmall palace and very extenſive park, belonging to the Imperial family.

Prince Kaunitz has lately built a houſe there, and lives in a ſtyle equally hoſpitable and magnificent. He is not to be ſeen before dinner by any but people on buſineſs; but he always has a pretty large company at dinner, and ſtill greater numbers from Vienna paſs their evenings at Laxenberg; not unfrequently the Emperor himſelf makes one of the company. This miniſter has enjoyed the favour of the Empreſs for many years. He was her envoy at the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, and has been of her cabinet council ever ſince. At preſent he is miniſter for all foreign affairs, and is ſuppoſed to have greater influence with her than any other perſon.

He is certainly a man of knowledge, genius, and fidelity, and the affairs of this court have proſpered greatly under his management. His friends are very much attached to him, and he ſhews great diſcernment in diſcovering and employing men of talents. He is the friend and patron of Monſ. de Swieten. It is ſuppoſed that he adviſed and negociated the French alliance, yet he has always had a ſtrong partiality in favour of the Britiſh nation.—He has ſome ſingularities; but as they do not affect any eſſential part of his character, they need not be mentioned.

LETTER LXXXIV.

Vienna.

I Had the pleaſure of yours by the laſt poſt, wherein you inform me that our acquaintance C—— talks of ſetting out for Vienna very ſoon. As nothing is ſo tireſome as the company of one who is continually tired of himſelf, I ſhould be alarmed at your information, were I not abſolutely certain that his ſtay here will be very ſhort, come when he will.

C— called at my lodgings one morning the ſummer before I had left London.—I had remained in town merely becauſe I had no particular buſineſs elſewhere;—but he aſſured me, that the town was a deſert;—that it was ſhameful to be ſeen in the ſtreets;—that all the world was at Brighthelmſtone.—

helmſtone.—So I allowed him to conduct me to that place, where we had remained only a few days, when he told me, that none of the people he cared for were there; and as I had nothing particular to detain me, he begged as a favour that I would accompany him to Tunbridge.—We went accordingly, and to my great ſatisfaction I there found Mr. N——'s family. C— remained pretty quiet for about four days; —he yawned a good deal on the fifth;— and on the ſixth, I thought he would have diſlocated his jaws. As he perceived I was pleaſed with the place, and would take none of his hints about leaving it, he at laſt pretended that he had received a letter which made it abſolutely neceſſary for him to ſet out for London:—and away he went.

I ſtaid three weeks at Tunbridge.—On my return to town, I underſtood that C— had taken a genteel furniſhed houſe for the ſummer in Yorkſhire, where he had already paſſed a week, having previouſly engaged a female friend to go along with him.—He left word in town, that he was not to be expected till the meeting of parliament. Though I never imagined that he would remain quite ſo long, yet I was a little ſurpriſed to ſee him enter my room two days after I had received this account.—He told me, he was quite diſguſted with his houſe, and more ſo with his companion:—and beſides, he had taken a violent fancy to go to Paris, which you know, added he, is the moſt delightful place in the world, eſpecially in ſummer; for the company never think of rambling about the country like our giddy fools in England, but remain together in the capital as ſenſible people ought to do.

He then propoſed that we ſhould pack up a few things,—take poſt,—paſs over,—and ſpend a couple of months at Paris. Finding I did not reliſh the propoſal, he wrote an apology to the lady in Yorkſhire, with an incloſed bank bill, and ſet out next day by himſelf. I heard no more of him for ſix weeks, but at the end of that time, happening to be at Bath, I ſaw my friend C— enter the pump-room.—'Egad, ſaid he, you were wiſe to ſtay at home:—Paris is become the moſt inſipid place on earth:—I could not ſupport it above ten days.—But having heard a good deal of Holland, I even took a jaunt to Amſterdam, which, between friends, I found very little more amuſing than Paris; two days after my arrival, finding an Engliſh ſhip juſt ready to ſail, I thought it would be a pity to let the opportunity ſlip. So I ordered my trunk aboard. —We had a diſagreeable paſſage:—However, I arrived ſafe a few days ago at Harwich. After this ſketch of poor C—'s turn of mind, you ſee, I have no reaſon to fear his remaining long with us, if he ſhould come.

Foreigners aſſert that the Engliſh have more of this reſtleſs diſpoſition than any other people in Europe.

Il faut que votre ville de Londres ſoit un triſte ſéjour.—I aſked the perſon who made this remark to me, wherefore he thought ſo? —Parceque, anſwered he, tous vos jeunes gens que je vois en France s'ennuyent à la mort.—But, ſaid I, there are a great many of your countrymen in London.—Aſſurément, anſwered he, with polite inſolence, cela fait une différence.

Our climate is accuſed of producing this ennuy. If I rightly remember, I formerly hinted ſome reaſons againſt this opinion, and of late I begin to ſuſpect that the exceſſive wealth of certain individuals, and the ſtate of ſociety in our capital, are the ſole cauſes of our having a greater ſhare of that malady among us than our neighbours. The common people of England know nothing of it:—neither do the induſtrious of any rank, whether their object be wealth, knowledge, or fame. But in England there is a greater number than in any other country, of young men, who come to the poſſeſſion of great fortunes before they have acquired any fixed and determined taſte, which may ſerve as a reſource and occupation through life.

When a youth has acquired a habit of application, a thirſt of knowledge, or of fame, the moſt ample fortune which can fall to him afterwards, cannot always deſtroy diſpoſitions and paſſions already formed—Particularly if the paſſion be ambition, which generally gives ſuch energy to the mind, and occaſions ſuch continued exertions, as ſufficiently ward off laſſitude and tædium; for wealth cannot lull, or pleaſure enervate, a mind ſtrongly inſpired by that active principle. Such therefore are out of the preſent queſtion. But when a full and uncontrolled command of money comes firſt, and every object of pleaſure is placed within the reach of the unambitious, all other purſuits are too frequently deſpiſed; and every taſte or accompliſhment which could inform or ſtrengthen the mind, and fill up the tedious intervals of life, is neglected.

A young man in this ſituation is prone to exceſs; he ſeldom waits the natural returns of appetite of any kind;—his ſenſibility is blunted by too frequent enjoyment;—what is deſired to-day, is lothed to-morrow;—every thing at a diſtance, which bears the name of pleaſure, is an object of deſire;—when preſent, it becomes an object of indifference, if not of diſguſt.—The agitations of gaming are tried to prevent the horrid ſtagnation of indolence:—All amuſements loſe their reliſh, and ſerve to increaſe the languor they were meant to expel.

As age advances, caprice, peeviſhneſs, and tædium augment:—The ſcene is often changed; but the ſame fretful piece is conſtantly acted till the curtain is dropt, or is pulled down by the impatient actor himſelf before the natural end of the drama.

Does not all this happen in France and Germany?—Doubtleſs; but not ſo often as in England, for the reaſons already mentioned. In France, a very ſmall proportion of young men have the uncontrolled poſſeſſion of great fortunes. They have not the means of gratifying every deſire, and indulging every caprice. Inſtead of ſpending their time in clubs or taverns with people of their own age, the greater part of the young nobility paſs their evenings with ſome private family, or in thoſe ſocieties of both ſexes to which they have the entrée. There the decorum due to ſuch company reſtrains, of courſe, the vivacity and wantonneſs of their behaviour and converſation; and adventures occur which intereſt and amuſe, without being followed by the nauſea, languor, and remorſe, which often ſucceed nights ſpent at the gaming-table, or the licentiouſneſs of tavern ſuppers.

Nothing has a better influence on the temper, diſpoſition, and manners of a young perſon, than living much in the company of thoſe whom he reſpects. Excluſive of the improvement he may receive from their converſation, he is habituated to ſelf-denial, and muſt relinquiſh many indulgences which lead to indolence and languor.

The young French nobility, even although they ſhould have no great ſhare of ambition, no love of ſtudy, no particular turn for any of thoſe higher accompliſhments which enable men to paſs the hours of life independent of other amuſements; yet they contrive to keep tædium at a diſtance by efforts of a different kind, by a ſpecies of activity peculiar to themſelves: They perceive, very early in life, the abſolute neceſſity of pleaſing; this ſentiment pervades their general conduct, and goes a great way in the formation of their real character. They are attentive and obliging to all, and particularly endeavour to acquire and retain the friendſhip of thoſe who can aſſiſt their fortunes; and they have a reliſh for life, becauſe it is not always in their power to anticipate enjoyment, nor can they cloy their appetites by ſatiety. Even the moſt diſſipated among them are unacquainted with the unbounded freedom of a tavern life, where all the freaks of a whimſical mind, and a capricious taſte, may be indulged without heſitation, and which, after long indulgence, renders every other kind of ſociety inſupportable.

With regard to the Germans, there are very few men of great independent fortunes among them. The little princes, by whom the riches of the country are engroſſed, have, I ſuſpect, their own difficulties to get through life with any tolerable degree of ſatisfaction. As for their younger brothers and the middling gentry, they go into the army, and are ſubjected to the rigorous and unremitting attentions of military diſcipline. This, of conſequence, forms a character, in many reſpects different from that of the Engliſh or French gentleman.

But I have not yet mentioned the circumſtance which, of all others, perhaps contributes the moſt to render London the triſte ſéjour which foreigners often find it; I mean the eſtabliſhment of clubs, from which that part of the community are excluded who have the greateſt power to ſoothe the cares, and enliven the pleaſures of life.

LETTER LXXXV.

Vienna.

WE had an invitation lately from Monſ. de Breteuil to dine on the top of Mount Calenberg, a very high mountain in the neighbourhood of this city. Common coaches or chariots cannot be dragged up; but having driven to the bottom, we found chaiſes of a particular conſtruction, calculated for ſuch expeditions. Theſe had been ordered by the Ambaſſador for the accommodation of the company, and in them we were carried to the ſummit, where there is a convent of Monks, from which two landſcapes of very oppoſite natures appear. The one conſiſts of a ſeries of wild mountains; the other, of the town, ſuburbs, and environs of Vienna, with the various branches of the Danube flowing through a rich champaign of boundleſs extent.

The table for dinner was covered in a field near the convent, under the ſhade of ſome trees.—Every delicacy of the ſeaſon was ſerved up.——Madame de Matignon, a very beautiful and ſprightly lady, daughter of M. de Breteuil, did the honours.—Some of the fineſt women of Vienna, her companions, were of the company; and the whole entertainment was conducted with equal taſte and gaiety.

During the deſſert, ſome of the Fathers came and preſented the company with baſkets of fruit and ſallad from their garden.—The Ambaſſador invited them to ſit, and the ladies pledged them in tokay. Monſ. de Breteuil had previouſly obtained permiſſion for the ladies to enter the convent;——which they accordingly did, as ſoon as they roſe from table, attended by all the company.

You will readily believe, that the appearance of ſo many handſome women would be particularly intereſting to a community which had never before beheld a female within their walls.—This indeed was ſufficiently evident, in ſpite of the gravity and mortified looks of the Fathers.

One lady of a gay diſpoſition laid hold of a little ſcourge which hung at one of the Father's belts, and deſired he would make her a preſent of it, for ſhe wiſhed to uſe it when ſhe returned home, having, as ſhe ſaid, been a great ſinner.——The Father, with great gallantry, begged ſhe would ſpare her own fair ſkin, aſſuring her that he would give himſelf a hearty flogging on her account that very evening;—and to prove how much he was in earneſt, fell directly on his knees before a little altar, and began to whip his own ſhoulders with great earneſtneſs, declaring, that when the ladies ſhould retire, he would lay it with the ſame violence on his naked body; for he was determined ſhe ſhould be as free from ſin as ſhe was on the day of her birth.

This melted the heart of the lady.—She begged the Father might take no more of her faults upon his ſhoulders.——She now aſſured him that her ſlips had been very venial, and that ſhe was convinced what he had already done would clear her as completely as if he ſhould whip himſelf to the bone.

There is ſomething ſo ludicrous in all this, that you may naturally ſuſpect the repreſentation I have given, proceeds from invention rather than memory. I aſſure you, however, in downright earneſt, that the ſcene paſſed nearly as deſcribed; and, to prevent farther miſchief, I put the ſcourge, which the zealous Father had made uſe of, in my pocket.

On my return to Vienna, I called the ſame evening at the Counteſs Walſtein's, and ſoon after the Emperor came there. Somebody had already mentioned to him the pious gallantry of the Father at the top of Mount Calenberg.—He aſked for a ſight of the whip, which he underſtood I had brought away:—I had it ſtill in my pocket, and immediately ſhewed it him.——He laughed very heartily at the warmth of the Father's zeal, which he ſuppoſed had been augmented by the Ambaſſador's tokay.

You have often heard of the unceremonious and eaſy manner in which this great Prince lives with his ſubjects. Report cannot exaggerate on this head. The Counteſs Walſtein had no expectations of his viſiting her that evening.——When the ſervant named the Emperor before he entered, I ſtarted up, and was going to retire.—The Counteſs deſired me to remain, for nothing was more diſagreeable to him than that any company ſhould be diſturbed on his entering.—

ing.—The ladies kept their ſeats, ſome of them knotting all the time he remained. The men continued ſtanding while he ſtood, and when he was ſeated, moſt part of them ſat down alſo.—The Emperor put Count Mahoni, the Spaniſh ambaſſador, in mind of his gout, and made him ſit while himſelf remained ſtanding.

This monarch converſes with all the eaſe and affability of a private gentleman, and gradually ſeduces others to talk with the ſame eaſe to him. He is ſurely much happier in this noble condeſcenſion, and muſt acquire a more perfect knowledge of mankind, than if he kept himſelf aloof from his ſubjects, continually wrapt up in his own importance and the Imperial fur.

LETTER LXXXVI.

Vienna.

THE manners of this court are conſiderably altered ſince Lady Mary Wortley Montague was here, particularly ſince the acceſſion of the preſent Empreſs, whoſe underſtanding and affability have abridged many of the irkſome ceremonials formerly in uſe. Her ſon's philoſophical turn of mind, and the amiable and conciliating characters of her whole family, have no doubt tended to put ſociety in general upon a more eaſy and agreeable footing.

People of different ranks now do buſineſs together with eaſe, and meet at public places without any of thoſe ridiculous diſputes about precedency, of which the ingenious Engliſh lady has given ſuch lively deſcriptions.—Yet trifling punctilios are not ſo completely baniſhed, as, I imagine, the Emperor could wiſh, he himſelf being the leaſt punctilious perſon in his dominions:—for there is certainly ſtill a greater ſeparation than good ſenſe would direct, between the various claſſes of the ſubjects.—The ſentiments of a people change very gradually, and it takes a courſe of years before reaſon, or even the example of the Sovereign, can overcome old cuſtoms and prejudices.

The higher, or ancient families, keep themſelves as diſtinct from the inferior, or newly-created nobility, as theſe do from the citizens: So that it is very difficult for the inferior claſſes to be in ſociety, or to have their families much connected with thoſe of the ſuperior ranks. And, what is of more importance in a political ſenſe, there are certain places of high truſt in the government, which cannot be occupied by any but the higher order of nobility.

Would you not think it diſadvantageous for a government to keep a law in force which enacts, that the offices in the ſtate which require the greateſt abilities, ſhould be filled from that claſs of the community in which there is the leaſt chance of finding them?—Perhaps the uſage above mentioned is nearly equivalent to ſuch a law. As for the peaſants, who are entirely out of the queſtion, they are, in many parts of the Emperor's dominions, in a ſtate of perfect ſlavery, and almoſt totally dependant on the proprietors of the land.

The ideas relative to dreſs ſeem to have entirely changed ſince Lady Mary's time, and if the dreſs of the ladies be ſtill as abſurd, it is at leaſt not ſo ſingular; for they, like the reſt of Europe, have now adopted the Pariſian modes.

The preſent race of Auſtrian ladies can differ in nothing more than they do in looks from their grandmothers, who, if any of them were ſtill alive, may be as beautiful at this day as they were when ſhe wrote; for time itſelf could hardly improve that uglineſs, which, according to her, was in full bloom ſixty years ago. I have not as yet enquired what method the parents have deviſed to remedy this inconveniency; but nothing is more certain than that it is remedied very effectually; for at preſent there is no ſcarcity of female beauty at the court of Vienna.

This being the caſe, it is natural to imagine that gallantry muſt now be more prevalent than when her ladyſhip was here. But excluſive of any real difference, which may have happened in the ſentiments of the ladies themſelves, they are obliged to obſerve an uncommon degree of circumſpection in that particular, as nothing is more heinous in the eyes of her Imperial Apoſtolic Majeſty. She ſeems to think that the ladies of her court, like the wife of Cæſar, ſhould not only be free from guilt, but, what is ſtill more difficult, free from ſuſpicion; and ſtrongly marks by her manner, that ſhe is but too well informed when any piece of ſcandal circulates to the prejudice of any of them.

With regard to what Lady Mary calls ſub-marriages, and of which ſhe has given ſuch a curious account, I do not imagine they are common at preſent, in all the latitude of her deſcription. But it is not uncommon for married ladies here to avow the greateſt degree of friendſhip and attachment to men who are not their huſbands, and to live with them in great intimacy, without hurting their reputation, or being ſuſpected, even by their own ſex, of having deviated from the laws of modeſty.

One evening at the Count Thune's, when there was a pretty numerous company, I obſerved one lady uncommonly ſad, and enquired of her intimate friend, who happened to be there alſo, if ſhe knew the cauſe of this ſadneſs?—I do, replied ſhe; Mr. de ——, whom ſhe loves very tenderly, ought to have been here a month ago; and laſt night ſhe received a letter from him, informing her that he cannot be at Vienna for a month to come. But pray, ſaid I, does your friend's huſband know of this violent paſſion ſhe has for Mr. de ——? Yes, yes, anſwered ſhe, he knows it, and enters with the moſt tender ſympathy into her affliction; he does all that can be expected from an affectionate huſband to comfort and ſoothe his wife, aſſuring her that her love will wear away with time. But ſhe always declares that ſhe has no hopes of this, becauſe ſhe feels it augment every day.—Mais, au fond, continued the lady, cela lui fait bien de la peine, parceque malheureuſement il aime ſe femme à la folie. Et ſa femme, qui eſt la meilleure créature du monde, plaint infiniment ſon pauvre mari; car elle a beaucoup d'amitié et d'eſtime pour lui;—mais elle ne ſçauroit ſe défaire de cette malheureuſe paſſion pour Monſ. de ——.

I was not in the leaſt ſurpriſed that a diſappointment of this nature ſhould affect a woman a little; but I own it did aſtoniſh me that ſhe ſhould appear in public, on ſuch an occaſion, in all the oſtentation of ſorrow, like a young widow vain of her weeds. Here this paſſion was lamented by her friends as a misfortune: In England, if I rightly remember, ſuch misfortunes are generally imputed to people as crimes.

LETTER LXXXVII.

Preſburg.

THE Viſcount de Laval having propoſed to me lately to make a ſhort tour with him into Hungary, I very readily conſented, and we arrived at this town yeſterday morning.

Preſburg, which is the capital of Lower Hungary, like Vienna, has ſuburbs more magnificent than itſelf. In this city the States of Hungary hold their aſſemblies, and in the cathedral church the Sovereign is crowned.

The preſent Empreſs took refuge here when the Elector of Bavaria was declared Emperor at Prague, when ſhe was abandoned by her allies, and when France had planned her deſtruction. Her own magnanimity, the generous friendſhip of Great Britain, and the courage of her Hungarian ſubjects, at length reſtored her fortunes, and ſecured to her family the ſplendid ſituation they now hold in Europe.

What politician in 1741 could have thought, that in the courſe of a few years the Empreſs would be in ſtrict alliance with France, and one of her daughters ſeated on the throne of that kingdom?—Should a ſoothſayer of Boſton propheſy, that John Hancock, or his ſon, will, ſome time hence, demand in marriage a daughter of England,—pray, do not lay an uncommon odds, that the thing will not happen.

Monſ. de Laval and I walked up this morning to the caſtle, which is a noble Gothic building, of a ſquare form, with a tower at each corner. The regalia of Hungary, conſiſting of the crown and ſceptre of St. Stephen, the firſt king, are depoſited here. Theſe are carefully ſecured by ſeven locks, the keys of which are kept by the ſame number of Hungarian noblemen. No Prince is held by the populace as legally their Sovereign till he be crowned with the diadem of King Stephen; and they have a notion that the fate of their nation depends on this crown's remaining in their poſſeſſion. It has therefore been always removed in times of danger to places of the greateſt ſafety.

The Turks, aware of the influence of ſuch a prejudice in the minds of the vulgar, have, it is ſaid, made frequent attempts to ſeize this Palladium.—The fate of Hungary ſeems now to be pretty much decided; ſo that excluſive of the value they put upon the crown, as a relic of conſiderable antiquity, the Hungarians need not be ſolicitous whether it remains in this caſtle or in the Imperial palace at Vienna.

By the conſtitution of Hungary, the crown is ſtill held to be elective. This point is not diſputed. All that is inſiſted on is, that the heir of the Houſe of Auſtria ſhall be elected as often as a vacancy happens.

The caſtle of Preſburg is the uſual reſidence of Prince Albert of Saxony, who married one of the Arch-ducheſſes, a very beautiful and accompliſhed Princeſs. As M. de Laval and I entered one of the rooms, we obſerved them at a window. We immediately ſtarted back, and withdrew, being in riding frocks and boots. Monſ. de Laval had ſeen their Highneſſes a few days before at Schonbrun, and thought they had been there ſtill. The Princeſs ſent a polite meſſage after us by a ſervant, who had orders to conduct us through every apartment of the caſtle; ſhe herſelf ſtept into another room, that we might ſee that which ſhe left.

All the Princeſſes of the Auſtrian family are diſtinguiſhed by an attentive and obliging politeneſs, which is the more remarkable, as thoſe who live much at courts often acquire a ſpecies of politeneſs which is by no means obliging. The ſplendor and diſtinctions of a court frequently inſpire an overweening vanity, and have a peculiar tendency to ſhake the ſteadineſs of the female underſtanding. Court ladies in general, but particularly ſuch as ſubmit to be abject ſycophants to Queens and Princeſſes, are apt to render themſelves ridiculous by the arrogant airs they aſſume to the reſt of the world, and while they uſurp the importance of royalty, fill the breaſts of all who know them with as much deteſtation as is conſiſtent with contempt.

The view from this citadel is very extenſive, commanding the vaſt and fertile plains of Hungary.

Having dined at the inn, and regaled ourſelves, at no great expence, with tokay, we went to viſit a villa at the diſtance of four miles from Preſburg, belonging to a Hungarian nobleman. This houſe is delightfully ſituated,—the gardens laid out a little too methodically;—but the park, and fields around, where leſs art has been uſed, diſplay a vaſt luxuriancy of natural beauties. —While wandering over theſe, we entered a little wood in a very retired place; as we advanced into this, we ſaw a venerable looking old man with a long beard, who, ſtretching out his hand, ſeemed to invite us to an hermitage which we obſerved hard by.

The Viſcount, impatient to cultivate the acquaintance of a perſon of ſuch an hoſpitable appearance, ran before me toward him; when he got up to him, he ſtopped ſhort as if ſurpriſed, and then, to my utter aſtoniſhment he raiſed his foot with every mark of indignation, and gave the poor old hermit a violent kick.

I do not remember that I was ever more ſhocked in my life; I was at the ſame time quite confounded at an action ſo unworthy in itſelf, and ſo incompatible with the character of Monſ. de Laval.—I was ſoon reconciled, however, to the treatment the old fellow had received, when I diſcovered that this venerable perſonage was not the honeſt man we took him for, but a downright impoſtor, made of painted wood, and dreſſed in the robes of a hermit to deceive paſſengers.

Over the door was an inſcription from Horace——

Odi profanum vulgus *,

On the inſide of the door——

Fata volentes ducunt, nolentes †.

And in another part, within the hermitage——

Omnes eodem cogimur; omnium
Verſatur urna, ſerius ocius,
Sors exitura, et nos in æternum
Exilium impoſitura Cymbæ ‡.

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* I abhor the profane vulgar.

† Fate leads the willing, and drags the unwilling.

‡ Thus all muſt tread the path of fate,
Thus even ſhakes the mortal urn,
Whoſe lot embarks us, ſoon or late,
On Charon's boat, ah, never to return!
FRANCIS.

There were alſo ſeveral inſcriptions taken from Cicero, in favour of the ſoul's immortality, which I am ſorry I neglected to tranſcribe.—We returned in the evening to this place, and are to ſet out to-morrow for Prince Eſtherhaſie's.

LETTER LXXXVIII.

Vienna.

HAVING left Preſburg, we travelled eight poſts acroſs a very fertile country to the palace of Eſtherhaſie, the reſidence of the Prince of that name. He is the firſt in rank of the Hungarian nobility, and one of the moſt magnificent ſubjects in Europe. He has body-guards of his own, all genteel-looking men, richly dreſſed in the Hungarian manner.

The palace is a noble building, lately finiſhed, and ſituated near a fine lake. The apartments are equally grand and commodious: the furniture more ſplendid than almoſt any thing I have ſeen in royal palaces. In the Prince's own apartment there are ſome curious muſical clocks, and one in the ſhape of a bird, which whiſtles a tune every hour.

Juſt by the palace, there is a theatre for operas, and other dramatic entertainments; and in the gardens, a large room with commodious apartments for maſquerades and balls.

At no great diſtance, there is another theatre expreſsly built for puppet-ſhows. This is much larger and more commodious than moſt provincial playhouſes, and I am bold to aſſert, is the moſt ſplendid that has as yet been reared in Europe for that ſpecies of actors. We regretted that we could not have the pleaſure of ſeeing them perform; for they have the reputation of being the beſt comedians in Hungary.

We had the curioſity to peep behind the curtain, and ſaw Kings, Emperors, Turks, and Chriſtians, all ranged very ſociably together.—King Solomon was obſerved in a corner in a very ſuſpicious tête-a-tête with the Queen of Sheba.

Among other curioſities, there is in the garden a wooden houſe, built upon wheels. It contains a room with a table, chairs, a looking-glaſs, chimney, and fire-place. There are alſo cloſets, with many neceſſary accommodations.—The Prince ſometimes entertains twelve people in this vehicle, all of whom may eaſily ſit round the table, and the whole company may thus take an airing together along the walks of the garden, and many parts of the park, which are as level as a bowling-green. The machine, when thus loaded, is eaſily drawn by ſix or eight horſes.

Prince Eſtherhaſie having heard of M. de Laval's being in the garden, ſent us an invitation to the opera, which was to be performed that evening; but as we had brought with us no dreſs proper for ſuch an occaſion, we were forced to decline this obliging invitation. The Prince afterwards ſent a carriage, in which we drove round the garden and parks. Theſe are of vaſt extent, and beautiful beyond deſcription; arbours, fountains, walks, woods, hills, and valleys, being thrown together in a charming confuſion.—If you will look over Arioſto's deſcription of the gardens in Alcina's inchanted iſland, you will have an idea of the romantic fields of Eſtherhaſie, which are alſo inhabited by the ſame kind of animals.

Tra le purpuree roſe e i bianchi gigli,
Cha tepid aura freſchi ognora ſerba,
Sicuri ſi vedean lepri e conigli:
E cervi con la fronte alta e ſuperba,
Senza temer che alcun li uccida o pigli,
Paſcono, e ſtanſi ruminando l'erba:
E Saltan daini e capri ſnelli e deſtri,
Che ſono in copia in quei luoghi campeſtri*.

M. de

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* While 'midſt the roſes red and lilies fair,
For ever nurs'd by kindly zephyr's care,
The nimble hares, in wanton mazes play'd,
And ſtately ſtags with branching antlers ſtray'd;
Without the fear of hoſtile hand, they ſtood
To crop, or ruminate their graſſy food.

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M. de Laval was in raptures with the gardens of Eſtherhaſie. In the height of his admiration, I aſked him, how they ſtood in his opinion, compared with thoſe of Verſailles?

Ah, Parbleu! Monſieur, anſwered he, Verſailles étoit fait exprès pour n'être comparé à rien.—He acknowledged, however, with difficulty, that, except France, no other country he had ſeen was ſo beautiful as this.

Having wandered here many hours, we returned to the inn, where a ſervant waited with Prince Eſtherhaſie's compliments, and a baſket containing two bottles of Tokay, and the ſame quantity of Champaign and of Old Hock. We lamented very ſincerely, that we could not have the honour of waiting on this very magnificent Prince, and thanking him perſonally for ſo much politeneſs.

The wild goats frolick; leap the nimble deer,
That in this rural place in troops appear.

A company of Italian ſingers and actors were then at the inn, and preparing for the opera. Great preparations were making for the entertainment of the Empreſs and all the Court, who are ſoon to make a viſit of ſeveral days to Eſtherhaſie. Though the Imperial family, and many of the nobility, are to lodge in the palace, yet every corner of this large and commodious inn is already beſpoke for the company which are invited upon that occaſion.

Hungary is a very cheap country, the land being infinitely fertile, and in ſome places producing the moſt eſteemed grape in Europe. It is beautiful with lakes, the windings of the Danube, and many ſtreams which flow into that fine river. In the woods of Hungary are bred a race of horſes, the moſt active, hardy, and ſpirited, for their ſize, in the world. Theſe have been found very uſeful in war, and the huſſars, or light dragoons of the Auſtrian army, are mounted on them.

The men in Hungary are remarkably handſome, and well-ſhaped. Their appearance is improved by their dreſs, which you know is peculiar, and very becoming.

Lady M. W. Montague aſſerts, that the Hungarian women are far more beautiful than the Auſtrian. For my part, I think of women, as M. de Laval does of Verſailles;—that they are not to be compared with any thing,—not even with one another. And therefore, without preſuming to take a comparative view of their beauty, it may be remarked in general, that where the men are handſome and well-made, it is natural to ſuppoſe, that the women will poſſeſs the ſame advantages; for parents generally beſtow as much attention to the making of their daughters as of their ſons. In confirmation of which doctrine, I can aſſure you, that I have ſeen as handſome women, as men, in Hungary, and one of the prettieſt women, in my opinion, at preſent at the Court of Vienna, is a Hungarian.

None of the Empreſs's ſubjects are taxed ſo gently, or enjoy ſo many privileges, as the Hungarians. This is partly owing to the grateful remembrance ſhe has of their loyalty and attachment in the days of her diſtreſs. But although this ſentiment were not ſo ſtrong in her breaſt as it really is, there are political reaſons for continuing to them the ſame exemptions and privileges; for nothing can be more dangerous than diſobliging the inhabitants of a frontier country, which borders on an inveterate enemy. —Nor could any thing pleaſe the Turks more, than to find the hearts of the Hungarians alienated from the houſe of Auſtria.

I found this country, and the company of M. de Laval, ſo very agreeable, that I ſhould have been happy to have extended our excurſion farther; but he is obliged to ſet out ſoon for Chamberry to pay his duty to the Comte d'Artois, who is expected there to wait on his future ſpouſe, the Princeſs of Savoy. We therefore returned by the direct road from Eſtherhaſie to Vienna.

LETTER LXXXIX.

Vienna.

SO the fate of poor —— is finally decided, and he now finds, that to be ruined is not a matter of ſo much indifference as he once imagined. I neither ſee the poſſibility of his extricating himſelf from his preſent difficulties, nor in what manner he will be able to ſupport them. Accuſtomed to every luxuriant indulgence, how can he bear the inconveniencies of poverty?—Diſſipated and inattentive from his childhood, how can he make any exertion for himſelf?—His good-humour, genteel figure, and pliant diſpoſition, made him well received by all.—While he formed no expectations from their friendſhip, his company ſeemed particularly acceptable to ſome who are at preſent in power: Whether it will be equally ſo now, when he has nothing elſe to depend on, is to be tried. And I really think it as well for him that it be tried now, as five or ſix years hence.

This calamity has been long foreſeen.—There ſeemed to be almoſt a neceſſity that it ſhould happen ſooner or later; for he had neither caution, plan, nor object in his gaming.—He continued it from habit alone. Of all mankind, he was the leaſt covetous of exceſſive wealth; and excluſive of gaming, he always lived within his income, not from a deſire of ſaving money, but merely becauſe he had no taſte for great expence.—How often have we ſeen him loſe immenſe ſums to thoſe who could never have paid the half, had he happened to win it; and to ſome of whom he had lent the money which enabled them to ſtake againſt him?

There are many careleſs young men of great fortunes, who game in the ſame ſtyle, and from no other motives than thoſe of our unhappy friend.—What is the conſequence?—The money circulates for a while among them, but remains finally with perſons of a very different character.—I ſhall not ſuppoſe that any of the very fortunate gameſters we have been acquainted with, have uſed thoſe means to correct fortune which are generally reckoned fraudulent. I am fully perſuaded, they are ſeldomer practiſed in the clubs in London, than in any other gaming ſocieties in the world.—Let all ſlight of hand, and every ſpecies of downright ſharping, be put out of the queſtion; but ſtill we may ſuppoſe, that among a great number of careleſs inattentive people of fortune, a few wary, cool, and ſhrewd men are mingled, who know how to conceal real caution and deſign under apparent inattention and gaiety of manner;—

who have a perfect command of themſelves, puſh their luck when fortune ſmiles, and refrain when ſhe changes her diſpoſition;—who have calculated the chances, and underſtand every game where judgment is required.

If there are ſuch men, is not the probability of winning infinitely in their favour?—Does it not amount to almoſt as great a certainty, as if they had actually loaded the dice or packed the cards?—I know you live in the habit of intimacy with ſome who anſwer to the above deſcription; and I have heard you ſay, that however fortunate they may have been, you were fully convinced that nothing can be fairer than their manner of playing. I accuſe them of taking no other advantages than thoſe above-mentioned; but I appeal to your own experience,—pray recollect,—and I am greatly miſtaken, if you will not find, that by far the greater part of thoſe who have made fortunes by play, and

have

bave kept them when made, are men of cool, cautious, ſhrewd, and ſelfiſh characters.

If any of theſe very fortunate people were brought to a trial, and examined by what means they had accumulated ſuch ſums, while ſo many others had entirely loſt, or greatly impaired their fortunes (if the word eſprit be allowed to imply that artful ſuperiority which belongs to their characters), they might anſwer in the words of the wife of Concini Marechal d'Ancre, when ſhe was aſked what charm ſhe had made uſe of to faſcinate the mind of the Queen?—De l'aſcendant, ſhe replied, qu'un eſprit ſuperieur a toujours ſur des eſprits foibles.—Certainly there can be no greater weakneſs, than for a man of independent fortune to game in ſuch a manner as to riſk loſing it, for the chance of doubling or tripling his income: becauſe the additional happineſs ariſing from any ſuppoſable addition of wealth, can never be within a thouſand degrees ſo great, as the miſery which would be the conſequence of his being ſtripped of his original fortune.

This conſideration alone, one would imagine, might be ſufficient to deter any reaſonable man from a conduct ſo weak and abſurd: yet there are other conſiderations which give much additional weight to the argument:—the diſmal effects which the continued practice of gaming has ſometimes been obſerved to produce in the diſpoſition of the mind, and the moſt eſſential parts of the character, deſtroying every idea of œconomy, engroſſing the whole time, undermining the beſt principles, perverting the qualities of the heart, rendering men callous to the ruin of acquaintances, and partakers, with a ſavage inſenſibility, in the ſpoils of their unwary friends.

The peculiar inſtances with which you and I are acquainted, where the long-continued habit of deep play has had no ſuch effects, are proofs of the rooted honour and integrity of certain individuals, and may ſerve as exceptions to a general rule, but cannot be urged as arguments againſt the uſual tendency of gaming. If men of fortune and character adopted the practice of gaming upon any principle of reaſoning, there might be a greater probability of their being reaſoned out of it: but moſt of them begin to game, not with any view or fixed plan of increaſing their wealth, but merely as a faſhionable amuſement, or perhaps by way of ſhowing the liberality of their ſpirit, and their contempt for money.

I would not be very poſitive, that ſome of them have not miſtaken for admiration that ſurpriſe which is expreſſed when any perſon has loſt an immenſe ſum. And this miſtake may have given them leſs repugnance to the idea of becoming the objects of admiration in the ſame way. Afterwards endeavouring to win back what they had ſo idly loſt, the habit has grown by degrees, and at length has become their ſole reſource from the wearineſs which thoſe born to great fortunes, and who have not early in life acquired ſome faculty of amuſing themſelves, are more prone to fall into than others. Men born to no ſuch expectations, whatever their natural diſpoſitions may be, are continually rouſed from indolence by avocations which admit of no delay. The purſuit of that independence, for which almoſt every human boſom ſighs, and whoſe value is unknown only to thoſe who have always poſſeſſed it, is thought a neceſſary, and is often found an agreeable, employment to the generality of mankind. This, with the other duties of life, is ſufficient to engroſs their time and thoughts, and guard them from *the pains and penalties of idleneſs.*

As the purſuit of wealth is ſuperfluous in men of rank and fortune, ſo it would be unbecoming their ſituation. Being deprived of this, which is ſo great an object and reſource to the reſt of mankind, they ſtand in more need of ſomething to ſupply its place. I know of nothing which can ſo completely, and with ſo much propriety, have this effect, as a taſte for letters and love of ſcience. I therefore think theſe are more eſſentially neceſſary to the happineſs of people of high rank and great fortune, than to thoſe in confined circumſtances.

If independence be deſired with univerſal ardour by mankind, the road of ſcience is neither the moſt certain, nor the ſhorteſt way to attain it. But thoſe who are already in poſſeſſion of this, have infinite need of the other to teach them to enjoy their independence with dignity and ſatiſfaction, and to prevent the gifts of fortune from becoming ſources of miſery inſtead of happineſs. If they are ambitious, the cultivation of letters, by adorning their minds, and enlarging their faculties, will facilitate their plans, and render them more fit for the high ſituations to which they aſpire. If they are devoid of ambition, they have ſtill more occaſion for ſome of the purſuits of ſcience, as reſources againſt the languor of retired or inactive life.—Quod ſi non hic tantus fructus oſtenderetur, et ſi ex his ſtudiis delectatio ſola peteretur; tamen, ut opinor, hanc animi remiſſionem, humaniſſimam ac liberaliſſimam judicaretis.

This love of letters, conſidered merely as an amuſement, and to fill up agreeably the vacant hours of life, I believe to be more eſſentially neceſſary to men of great fortune than to thoſe who have none;—to men without ambition, than to thoſe who are animated by that active paſſion; and to the generality of Engliſhmen more than to the natives of either Germany or France.—The Germans require very little variety. They can bear the languid uniformity of life always with patience, and often with ſatisfaction. They diſplay an equanimity under diſguſt that is quite aſtoniſhing.—The French, though not ſo celebrated for patience, are of all mankind the leaſt liable to deſpondence. Public affairs, ſo apt to diſturb the repoſe of many worſhipful citizens of London, never give a Frenchman uneaſineſs. If the arms of France are ſucceſsful, he rejoices with all his heart;—if they are unfortunate, he laughs at the commanders with all his ſoul. If his miſtreſs is kind, he celebrates her goodneſs, and commends her taſte;—if ſhe is cruel, he derides her folly in the arms of another.

No people ever were ſo fond of amuſement, and ſo eaſily amuſed. It ſeems to be the chief object of their lives, and they contrive to draw it from a thouſand ſources, in which no other people ever thought it could be found. I do not know where I met with the following lines; they are natural and eaſy, and ſeem expreſſive of the conduct and ſentiments of the whole French nation.

M'amuſer n'importe comment,
Fait toute ma philoſophie.
Je crois ne perdre aucun moment
Hors le moment où je m'ennuie;
Et je tiens ma tâche finie.
Pourvu qu'ainſi tout doucement;
Je me defaſſe de la vie.

Our countrymen who have applied to letters, have proſecuted every branch of ſcience as ſucceſsfully as any of their neighbours. But thoſe of them who ſtudy mere amuſement, independent of literature of any kind, certainly have not been ſo happy in their reſearches as the French. Many things which entertain the latter, ſeem frivolous and inſipid to the former. The Engliſh view objects through a darker

medium,

medium. Leſs touched than their neighbours with the gaieties, they are more affected by the vexations of life, under which they are too ready to deſpond. They feel their ſpirits flag with the repetition of ſcenes which at firſt were thought agreeable. This ſtagnation of animal ſpirits, from whatever cauſe it ariſes, becomes itſelf a cauſe of deſperate reſolutions, and debaſing habits.

A man of fortune, therefore, who can acquire ſuch a reliſh for ſcience, as will make him rank its purſuits among his amuſements, has thereby made an acquiſition of more importance to his happineſs, than if he had acquired another eſtate equal in value to his firſt. I am almoſt convinced, that a taſte of this kind is the only thing which can render a man of fortune (eſpecially if his fortune be very large) tolerably independent and eaſy through life. Whichſoever of the roads of ſcience he loves to follow, his curioſity will continually be kept awake. An inexhauſtible variety of intereſting objects will open to his view,—his mind will be repleniſhed with ideas,—and even when the purſuits of ambition become inſipid, he will ſtill have antidotes againſt tædium, and (other things being ſuppoſed equal) the beſt chance of paſſing agreeably through life, that the uncertainty of human events allows to man.

LETTER XC.

Vienna.

IN your laſt, you ſhow ſuch a paſſion for anecdote, and ſeem ſo deſirous of my inſiſting on manners and characters, that I fear you will not be pleaſed with my laſt long epiſtle upon a ſubject entirely remote from what you demand. But you muſt remember, that you were warned from the beginning of this correſpondence, that I would retain the privilege of digreſſing as often as I pleaſed, and that my letters ſhould frequently treat of what I thought, as well as what I ſaw. However, this ſhall conſiſt entirely of ſights.

The firſt I ſhall mention was exhibited ſoon after our arrival at Vienna. This was the feaſt of St. Stephen, at which the Emperor dined in public with the knights.

He was at the head of the table; his brother and brother-in-law next him, and the other knights ſat according to ſeniority. The Arch-ducheſſes, with ſome of the principal ladies of the court, were at a balcony within the hall to ſee this ceremony.—The Emperor and all the knights were dreſſed in the robes of the order. The Hungarian guards, with their ſabres drawn, ſurrounded the table.

The honour of ſerving the Emperor at this ſolemnity belongs entirely to the Hungarians. When he called for drink, a Hungarian nobleman poured a little of the wine into a cup and taſted it; he afterwards filled another, which he preſented with one knee touching the ground. The Emperor often ſmiled upon this nobleman as he went through the ceremony, and ſeemed to indicate, by the whole of his behaviour, that he conſidered ſuch ſubmiſſive bendings of one man to another, as greatly miſplaced, and that he ſuffered this mummery merely in compliance with ancient cuſtom.

There was great crowding to ſee this feaſt, and it was not without difficulty I got admiſſion; though, after all, there was nothing to be ſeen but ſome well-dreſſed men, who ate an exceeding good dinner with tolerable appetite.

Since the feaſt of St. Stephen, we have been witneſſes to the annual ceremony in commemoration of the defeat of the Turkiſh army, and the raiſing the ſiege of Vienna by John Sobieſki King of Poland. The Imperial family, and the principal nobility of both ſexes, walked in ſolemn proceſſion, and heard maſs at the church of St. Stephen on this occaſion. In the middle of the ſtreet, leading from the palace to the church, a platform was raiſed, upon which the company, who formed the proceſſion, walked.—The ſtreets were lined with the Imperial guards, and the windows and tops of the houſes were crowded with ſpectators.—The Duke of Hamilton and I found a very good ſituation at a window with the Venetian ambaſſador.

This ceremony would have been too fatiguing for the Empreſs:—She therefore did not attend:—The Emperor, the Archdukes and Ducheſſes, with all the nobility, did. A prodigious train of biſhops, prieſts, and monks, followed; and a numerous band of muſic played as they went along.

As this is a day of rejoicing, the richeſt and gayeſt dreſſes are thought the moſt expreſſive of the pious gratitude becoming ſuch an occaſion. The ladies diſplayed their devotion in the moſt brilliant manner. Their minds, however, were not ſo much exalted by heavenly contemplations, as to be above taking notice of their earthly acquaintances at the windows, whom they regaled with ſmiles and nods as they walked along.

Next day the Imperial family dined in public, and many people went to ſee them. I was not of the number, though nobody can more ſincerely wiſh them the enjoyment of all the comforts of life. I know not on what principle the Royal Family in France, and other countries in Europe, have adopted the cuſtom of eating in public. They cannot imagine, that the ſeeing them chew and ſwallow their victuals can create a vaſt deal of admiration in the beholders. It would certainly be taken for granted, that they could perform theſe neceſſary functions, although a cloud of witneſſes were not admitted to confirm the fact. If theſe exhibitions are deſigned for the entertainment of the ſubjects, a thouſand could be thought of more amuſing to them; for however intereſting the part of an actor at a feaſt may be, that of a ſpectator is ſurely one of the moſt inſipid that can be imagined.

But the ſame evening there was a grand maſquerade at Schonbrun, which was more generally amuſing.—Four thouſand tickets were diſtributed on this occaſion.——A large party of dragoons were placed along the road from Vienna, to keep the coaches in a regular line, and to prevent confuſion. The principal rooms of this magnificent palace were thrown open for the reception of the company. In three large halls on the ground-floor, tables were covered with a cold collation of all kinds of fowls, ham, and confections, with pine-apples and every ſort of fruit. Theſe, with Old Hock, Champagne, and other kinds of wine, were ſerved with readineſs and profuſion to all who aſked for them.

At the end of the large dining-room, there was a raiſed ſeat for the Empreſs, and ſome ladies who attended her. Here a grand a grand Ballet was danced by the Arch-duke, the Arch-ducheſſes, the Princeſs of Modena, and ſome of the chief nobility, to the number of twenty-four. The dancers, both male and female, were dreſſed in white ſilk, flounced with pink-coloured ribbands, and enriched with a vaſt profuſion of diamonds.

This ballet was performed three times at proper intervals. Thoſe who had ſeen it once, paſſed into the gallery, and other apartments, giving way to a new ſet of ſpectators. In the garden, on a riſing ground oppoſite to the palace windows, a temporary fabric was erected in the form of a large and magnificent temple. This was illuminated by an incredible number of lamps, and gave the appearance of a very extraordinary piece of architecture, which continued flaming through the whole night, and had a very fine effect, viewed from Vienna, and other places at a greater diſtance.

The Emperor mixed with the company without ceremony or diſtinction, taking no part himſelf but as a ſpectator. He was converſing in the middle of the hall, in the moſt familiar manner, with an Engliſh gentleman, without obſerving, that the third ballet was going to be danced, when the maſter of the ceremonies whiſpered him in the ear.—The Emperor, ſeizing the Engliſhman by the arm, ſaid, Allons, Monſieur, on nous chaſſe—il faut ſe retirer; and immediately walked into another room, to give place to others who had not yet ſeen the dance.

This very ſplendid entertainment was given to the Arch-duke, and the Princeſs of Modena, whoſe uſual reſidence is at Milan.—The Empreſs, thus ſurrounded by her offspring, appeared cheerful and happy.—She ſeemed to enjoy the vivacity, and ſympathiſe with the gaiety, of the company.—She is greatly beloved by her own children, and by her ſubjects in general, whom ſhe alſo conſiders as her children in a greater degree than is uſual for ſovereigns.

It is an error to imagine, that great devotion has a tendency to ſour the temper: Though it muſt be acknowledged, that it has not always the power of ſweetening the very auſtere trunks on which it is ſometimes grafted; but in a character naturally benevolent, every good diſpoſition will be ſtrengthened and animated by real piety, Of this I have ſeen a thouſand inſtances, and I believe her Imperial Majeſty affords one.

LETTER XCI.

Vienna.

THE Emperor is of a middle ſize, well made, and of a fair complexion. He has a conſiderable reſemblance to his ſiſter, the Queen of France, which, in my opinion, is ſaying a great deal in favour of his looks.—Till I ſaw ſomething of his uſual behaviour, I did not think it poſſible for a perſon, in ſuch an elevated ſituation, to put every body with whom he converſed upon ſo eaſy a footing.

His manner, as I have often mentioned, is affable, obliging, and perfectly free from the reſerved and lofty deportment aſſumed by ſome on account of high birth. Whoever has the honour to be in company with him, ſo far from being checked by ſuch deſpicable pride, has need to be on his guard, not to adopt ſuch a degree of familiarity as, whatever the condeſcenſion of the one might permit, would be highly improper in the other to uſe.

He is regular in his way of life, moderate in his pleaſures, ſteady in his plans, and diligent in buſineſs. He is fond of his army, and inclines that the ſoldiers ſhould have every comfort and neceſſary conſiſtent with their ſituation. He is certainly an œconomiſt, and laviſhes very little money on uſeleſs pomp, miſtreſſes, or favourites; and it is, I ſuppoſe, on no better foundation than this, that his enemies accuſe him of avarice.

I cannot help regarding œconomy as one of the moſt uſeful qualities in a Prince. Liberality, even when puſhed to an imprudent length, may, in a private perſon, proceed from a kind of greatneſs of mind, becauſe his fortune is in every ſenſe his own, and he can injure nobody but himſelf by laviſhing it away.—He knows that when it is gone, nobody will reimburſe him for his extravagance.—He ſeems therefore to have taken the reſolution to ſubmit to the inconveniency of future poverty, rather than renounce the preſent happineſs of acting with a magnificent liberality, and beſtowing on others more than he can afford.

This is not the caſe with a Prince.—What he ſquanders is not his own, but the public money.—He knows that his pomp and ſplendour will be kept up, and that his ſubjects, not he, are to feel the inconveniencies of his prodigality. When I hear, therefore, that a King has given great ſums of money to any particular perſon; from the ſums given, the perſon who receives it, the motive for the gift, and other circumſtances, I can judge whether it is well or ill diſpoſed of; but in either caſe, it cannot be called generoſity.

The virtue of generoſity conſiſts in a man's depriving himſelf of ſomething for the ſake of another. There can be no generoſity in giving to John what James muſt replace the next moment. What is called generoſity in Kings, very often conſiſts in beſtowing that money on the idle part of their ſubjects which they have ſqueezed from the induſtrious. I have heard a parcel of fiddlers and opera dancers praiſe a Prince for his noble and generous behaviour to them, while men near his perſon, of uſeful talents and real worth were diſtreſſed for bread.—The Emperor certainly has none of that kind of generoſity.

His uſual dreſs (the only one indeed in which I ever ſaw him, except at the feaſt of the Knights of St. Stephen) is a plain uniform of white faced with red.—When he goes to Laxenberg, Schonbrun, and other places near Vienna, he generally drives two horſes in an open chaiſe, with a ſervant behind, and no other attendant of any kind.—He very ſeldom allows the guard to turn out as he paſſes through the gate.—Nobody ever had a ſtronger diſpoſition to judicious inquiry.—He is fond of converſing with ingenious people.—When he hears of any perſon, of whatever rank or country, being diſtinguiſhed for any particular talent, he is eager to converſe with him, and turns the converſation to the ſubject on which that perſon is thought to excel, drawing from him all the uſeful information he can. Of all the means of knowledge, this is perhaps the moſt powerful, and the moſt proper that can be uſed by one whoſe more neceſſary occupations do not leave him much time for ſtudy.

He ſeems to be of opinion, that the vanity and ignorance of many Princes are frequently owing to the forms in which they are intrenched, and to their being deprived of the advantages which the reſt of mankind enjoy from a free compariſon and exchange of ſentiment. He is convinced, that unleſs a King can contrive to live in ſome ſocieties on a footing of equality,

lity, and can weigh his own merit, without throwing his guards and pomp into the ſcale, it will be difficult for him to know either the world or himſelf.

One evening at the Counteſs Walſtein's, the converſation leading that way, the Emperor enumerated ſome remarkable and ludicrous inſtances of the inconveniencies of etiquette, which had occurred at a certain court. One perſon preſent hinted at the effectual means his Majeſty had uſed to baniſh every inconveniency of that kind from the Court of Vienna. To which he replied, It would be hard indeed, if, becauſe I have the ill-fortune to be an Emperor, I ſhould be deprived of the pleaſures of ſocial life, which are ſo much to my taſte. All the grimace and parade to which people in my ſituation are accuſtomed from their cradle, have not made me ſo vain, as to imagine that I am in any eſſential quality ſuperior to other men; and if I had any tendency to ſuch an opinion, the ſureſt way to get rid of it, is the method I take, of mixing in ſociety, where I have daily occaſions of finding myſelf inferior in talents to thoſe I meet with. Conſcious of this, it would afford me no enjoyment to aſſume airs of a ſuperiority which I feel does not exiſt. I endeavour therefore to pleaſe, and to be pleaſed; and as much as the inconveniency of my ſituation will permit, to enjoy the bleſſings of ſociety like other men, convinced that the man who is ſecluded from thoſe, and raiſes himſelf above friendſhip, is alſo raiſed above happineſs, and deprived of the means of acquiring knowledge.

This kind of language is not uncommon with poor philoſophers; but I imagine it is rarely held by Princes, and the inferences to be drawn from it more rarely put in practice.

A few days after this, there was an exhibition of fire-works on the Prater. This is a large park, planted with wood, and ſurrounded by the Danube, over which there is a wooden bridge. No carriages being allowed to paſs, the company leave their coaches at one end, and walk. There is a narrow path railed off on one ſide of the bridge. Many people very injudiciouſly took this path, to which there is an eaſy entrance at one end, but the exit is difficult at the other; for only one perſon can go out at a time. The path therefore was very ſoon choaked up; the unfortunate paſſengers crept on at a ſnail's pace, and in the moſt ſtraitened and diſagreeable manner imaginable; whilſt thoſe who had kept the wide path in the middle of the bridge, like the fortunate and wealthy in their journey through life, moved along at their eaſe, totally regardleſs of the wretched circumſtances of their fellow-paſſengers.

Some few of the priſoners in the narrow paſſage who were of a ſmall ſize, and uncommon addreſs, crawled under the rail, and got into the broad walk in the middle; but all who were tall, and of a larger make, were obliged to remain and ſubmit to their fate. An Engliſhman, who had been at the Counteſs Walſtein's when the Emperor expreſſed himſelf as above mentioned, was of the laſt claſs. The Emperor, as he paſſed, ſeeing that thoſe of a ſmall ſize extricated themſelves, while the Engliſhman remained fixed in a very awkward ſituation, called out, Ah, Monſieur! Je vous aie bien annoncé combien il eſt incommode d'être trop *grand*.—A preſent vous devez être bien de mon avis;—Mais comme je ne puis rien faire pour vous ſoulager, je vous recommende à Saint George.

There are people, who having heard of the Emperor's uncommon affability, and of his total contempt of pomp and parade, of which the bulk of mankind are ſo much enamoured, have aſſerted, that the whole is affectation. But if the whole tenor of any perſon's words and actions is to be conſidered as affectation, I do not know by what means we are to get at the bottom of his real character. Yet, people who have a violent taſte for any particular thing, are extremely ready to believe, that thoſe who have not the ſame taſte are affected.

I do not remember that I ever told you, that our friend R——, who loves his bottle above all things, and who, I believe, eſteems you above all men, let me into a part of your character of which I never had the ſmalleſt ſuſpicion.

One day after dinner, when a couple of bottles had awakened his friendſhip, and laid open his heart, he took it into his head to enumerate your good qualities, and concluded the liſt, by ſaying, that you were no milk-ſop.—I know what that expreſſion imports in the mouth of R——. I therefore ſtared, and ſaid, I had ſeldom ſeen you drink above three glaſſes at a time in my life.—Nor I, ſaid he; but take my word for it, he is too honeſt a fellow not to love good wine, and I am certain his ſobriety is all *affectation.*

LETTER XCII.

Vienna.

I Returned very lately from Prince Lichtenſtein's houſe at Felberg in Auſtria, where I paſſed a few days very agreeably. The Lichtenſtein family is one of the firſt in this country, whether conſidered in point of antiquity, wealth, or dignity. This Prince, beſides his lands in Auſtria, has conſiderable eſtates in Bohemia, Moravia, and that part of Sileſia which belongs to the Empreſs. Like Prince Eſtherhaſie, he has body guards in his own pay.—I believe no other ſubjects in Europe retain this diſtinction.

Felberg is a fine old manſion, about forty miles from Vienna. The apartments are large, convenient, and furniſhed in the magnificent ſtyle which prevails in the noblemen's houſes of this country. The company conſiſted of the Prince and Princeſs, the Count Degenfeldt and his lady, a very accompliſhed woman; the Duke of Hamilton, Mr. Milnes an Engliſh officer, another Engliſh gentleman, and myſelf. Our entertainment was in every reſpect ſplendid, particularly in the article of attendants. Some of the Auſtrian nobility carry this point of magnificence to a height, which could ſcarcely be ſupported by the beſt eſtates in England, where one footman is more expenſive than four in this country.

The day after our arrival, breakfaſt was ſerved to the company ſeparately in their own apartments, as is the cuſtom here. We afterwards ſet out for another villa belonging to this Prince, at ſix miles diſtance, where he intended to give the Duke the amuſement of hunting. The Princeſs, the Counteſs Degenfeldt, the Duke, and Captain Milnes, were in one coach; the

Prince, the Count, and I, in another; the two young Princes, with their governor and the young Engliſh gentleman, in a third, with a great retinue on horſeback.

As the day was well advanced when we arrived, I imagined the hunting would begin immediately:—But every thing is done with method and good order in this country, and it was judged proper to dine in the firſt place. This in due time being concluded, I thought the men would have proceeded directly to the ſcene of action, leaving the ladies till their return.—But here I found myſelf again miſtaken:—The ladies were to aſſiſt in the whole of this expedition. But as there was a neceſſity to traverſe a large wood, into which coaches could not enter, vehicles of a more commodious conſtruction were prepared. I forget what name is given to theſe carriages. They are of the form of benches, with ſtuffed ſeats, upon which ſix or eight people may place themſelves one behind the other. They are drawn by four horſes, and ſlide over the ground like a ſledge, paſſing along paths and trackleſs ways, over which no wheel-carriage could be drawn.

After being conveyed in this manner acroſs the wood, and a conſiderable way beyond it, we came to a very large open field, in which there were ſeveral little circular incloſures of trees and underwood at wide intervals from each other.—This hunting had hitherto been attended with very little fatigue; for we had been carried the whole way in coaches, or on the ſledges, which are ſtill eaſier than any coach. In ſhort, we had been perfectly paſſive ſince breakfaſt, except during the time of dinner.

But when we arrived at this large plain, I was informed, that the hunting would commence within a very ſhort time. I then expected we ſhould have ſome violent exerciſe after ſo much inactivity, and began to fear that the ladies might be over-fatigued, when, lo! the Prince's ſervants began to arrange ſome portable chairs at a ſmall diſtance from one of the thickets above mentioned. The Princeſs, Counteſs, and the reſt of the company took their places; and when every body was ſeated, they aſſured me that the hunting was juſt going to begin.

I own, my curioſity was now excited in a very uncommon degree; and I was filled with impatience to ſee the iſſue of a hunting, which had been conducted in a ſtyle ſo different from any idea I had of that diverſion. While I ſat loſt in conjecture, I perceived, at a great diſtance, a long line of people moving towards the little wood, near which the company was ſeated. As they walked along, they gradually formed the ſegment of a circle, whoſe centre was this wood. I underſtood that theſe were peaſants, with their wives and children, who, walking forward in this manner, rouſe the game, which naturally take ſhelter in the thicket of trees and buſhes. As ſoon as this happened, the peaſants ruſhed in at the ſide oppoſite to that where our company had taken poſt, beat out the game, and then the maſſacre began.

Each perſon was provided with a fuſil, and many more were at hand loaded for immediate uſe. The ſervants were employed in charging as faſt as the pieces were fired off: So that an uninterrupted ſhooting was kept up, as long as the game continued flying or running out of the wood.—The Prince hardly ever miſſed.—He himſelf killed above thirty partridges, a few pheaſants, and three hares.

At the beginning of this ſcene, I was a good deal ſurpriſed to ſee a ſervant hand a fuſil to the Princeſs, who with great coolneſs, and without riſing from her ſeat, took aim at a partridge, which immediately fell to the ground. With the ſame eaſe, ſhe killed ten or twelve partridges and pheaſants, at about double the number of ſhots.—The execution done by the reſt of the company was by no means conſiderable.

Though I had not heard of it before, I now underſtood, that ſhooting is not an uncommon amuſement with the German ladies: And it is probable, their attention to the delicacy of the fair ſex, has induced the hardy Germans to render this diverſion ſo little fatiguing.

The company afterwards walked to other little incloſures of planting, where ſome game was driven out, and killed as before.—The following day, the Prince conducted us to another of his ſeats, where there is a very fine open wood, full of deer of every kind, ſome of them the largeſt I ever ſaw. There is alſo a great number of wild boars, one of which, by the Prince's permiſſion, the Duke of Hamilton killed.

Nothing could ſurpaſs the politeneſs and magnificence with which the company were entertained during the whole of their ſtay. The Princeſs is a woman of an amiable character, and a good underſtanding; educates her children, and manages her affairs, with the utmoſt prudence and propriety.

This family, and many of the nobility, who have hitherto been at their country-ſeats, are now about to return to Vienna. The family of Monſieur and Madame de Pergen have been here for ſome time. This lady is an intimate friend of the Counteſs Thune; and nearly the ſame company, who form her ſociety, now aſſemble twice a week at the houſe of Madame de Pergen, who rivals the Counteſs in good ſenſe and many accompliſhments; and, without raiſing jealouſy or ill-will, divides with her the eſteem of the beſt company of this place. The agreeable footing on which ſociety is eſtabliſhed here, and the number of reſpectable people with whom we are acquainted, fills me with regret at the thoughts of leaving Vienna; but the Duke of Hamilton inclines to paſs the winter in Italy. Indeed, if he did not, he would be obliged to delay the journey a whole year, or ſubmit to the inconveniencies of travelling in the ſummer months, which, in ſo hot a climate, is rather to be avoided.

LETTER XCIII.

Vienna.

I Have not ſaid any thing of the Auſtrian army, having ſome ſuſpicion that I rather over-doſed you with military details from Berlin, where the ſubject of my etters was continually before my eyes. But the Emperor has very few of his troops in garriſon at Vienna. They make a fine appearance, and the army in general are more judiciouſly clothed, than any other I have ſeen.

Inſtead of coats with long ſkirts, their uniform is a ſhort jacket of white cloth, with waiſtcoat and breeches of the ſame; and each ſoldier has a ſurtout of coarſe grey cloth, which he wears in cold or rainy weather. This he rolls up in a very ſmall bulk when the weather is good, and it is little or no incumbrance on a march. They have ſhort boots for ſhoes; and, in place of hats, they wear caps of very ſtout leather, with a braſs front, which uſually ſtands up, but which may be let down upon occaſion, to prevent their eyes from being incommoded by the ſun.

Except a very few Hungarians who do duty within the palace, there are no troops in the Auſtrian ſervice with increaſed pay, and excluſive privileges, under the denomination of body-guards; the marching regiments on the ordinary eſtabliſhment, form the garriſon of Vienna, and perform the duty of guards by rotation.

The inſolence of the Prætorian bands at Rome, ſo often terrible to their maſters; the frequent inſurrections of the Janiſſaries at Conſtantinople, and the revolutions effected by the Ruſſian guards at Peterſburgh, ſufficiently point out the danger of ſuch an inſtitution. Theſe examples may have influenced the Auſtrian government to renounce a ſyſtem which ſeems to render certain regiments leſs uſeful, and more dangerous, than the reſt of the army.

The Auſtrian army is calculated at conſiderably above two hundred thouſand; and it is imagined that there never was a greater number of excellent officers in the ſervice than at preſent: ſo that, in caſe of a war with Pruſſia, the two powers will be more equally matched than ever. It would be unfortunate for this Court if it ſhould break out at preſent; for there are ſome commotions among the peaſants in Bohemia, which occaſion a general diſquiet, and by which ſome individuals have ſuſtained great loſſes. One nobleman of the firſt rank has had his houſe, and all the furniture, burnt to the ground, together with ſome large out-houſes near his caſtle.

Theſe exceſſes, according to ſome, proceed from mere wantonneſs, and love of miſchief, in the people. Others aſſert, that they are excited by the tyranny of the lords, which has driven thoſe poor men to deſpair. Whichſoever of theſe accounts is true, it ſeems evident to me, that it would be much better for the lords, as well as the peaſants, that the latter, inſtead of being bond-men, were in a ſtate of freedom. At preſent, they pay their rent by working a certain number of days in the week for their maſters, and maintain themſelves and families by labouring the other days on their own account. You will readily believe, that more real buſineſs will be done in one day when they work for themſelves, than in two days labour for their lords. This occaſions ill-humour and blows on the part of the maſter, and hatred and revolt on that of the peaſants.

If the eſtates in Bohemia were let to free-men at a reaſonable rent, freedom and property would excite a ſpirit of induſtry among theſe indolent people. They would then work every day with cheerfulneſs and good will, and I am convinced the landlords revenues would increaſe daily. In conſequence of this, the peaſants would, in all probability, continue as much attached to the ground from choice, as they are at preſent from neceſſity.—Do we not ſee families in Great Britain remain for many generations on gentlemen's eſtates, though the maſter has the privilege of changing his tenant, and the tenant his maſter, at the end of every leaſe?

In almoſt every country in Europe, except England, the inhabitants are confined, by ſome barrier or other, to the ſituation in which they are born. The total want of education neceſſarily obliges the greater part to gain their livelihood by bodily labour. National opinions prevent others from ever riſing above the level of their birth, however ſublime their genius, or however great their acquired knowledge. But in our iſland the door of ſcience, and conſequently the road to ambition, is open to almoſt every individual. Even in the moſt remote villages ſome degree of education is beſtowed on the pooreſt inhabitants.

This may be of little or no importance to ninety-nine in a hundred: and of the ſmall number who, by improving this pittance of knowledge, raiſe themſelves above the ſtate in which they were born, very few arrive at any degree of eminence; the reaſon of which is, that great genius is a quality very ſparingly dealt out to mankind. Though it muſt be allowed, that much the greater part of the inhabitants of the ſame country and climate are born with nearly the ſame natural abilities; and that the degrees of education, and other opportunities of improvement, gradually form all the difference which appears among them in after-life; yet I cannot, with Helvetius, believe that genius is entirely the work of education.

I am fully convinced, that Nature is continually producing ſome individuals in every nation of a finer organization, with an infinitely greater aptitude for ſcience of every kind, and whoſe minds are capable of a more ſublime and extenſive range of thought, than is attainable by the common run of mankind with any poſſible degree of culture. This natural ſuperiority is what I call genius. Wherever a conſiderable ſhare of this is lodged, a little cultivation will be ſufficient, but ſome is abſolutely requiſite to make it appear.

When it does exiſt in the minds of peaſants in Ruſſia, Poland, and ſome parts of Germany, it remains dormant from neglect, or is ſmothered by oppreſſion. But in Great Britain, the degree of education which is now univerſal, ſmall as it is, will be ſufficient to rouſe, animate, and bring into action the fire of extraordinary genius, the ſeeds of which impartial Nature is as apt to place in the infant breaſt of a peaſant as of a prince. The chance of great and diſtinguiſhed men ſpringing up in a country, is

therefore

therefore not to be calculated by the number of inhabitants, but by the number whoſe minds receive that degree of cultivation neceſſary to call forth their latent powers.

On the ſuppoſition, that one kingdom contains eight millions of inhabitants, and another triple the number, many more men of original genius, and great eminence in every art and ſcience, may, from the circumſtances above mentioned, be expected to appear in the firſt than in the ſecond. In Great Britain, for example, almoſt all the natives may be included in the calculation; but in the other countries which I have mentioned, the peaſantry, who form the moſt numerous claſs, muſt be ſtruck out.

LETTER XCIV.

Vienna.

WHETHER it is owing to the example of the Empreſs, or to what other cauſe, I ſhall not take upon me to decide; but there certainly appears a warmer and more general attachment to religion in Vienna, than in any other great town in Germany: There is alſo a greater appearance of ſatisfaction and happineſs here than in many other cities, where religious impreſſions are more feeble and leſs prevalent: It is not improbable, that the latter may be a conſequence of the former.

Irreligion and ſcepticiſm, excluſive of the bad effects they may have on the morals or future deſtiny of men, impair even their temporal happineſs, by obſcuring thoſe hopes which, in ſome ſituations, are their only conſolation. In whatever ſuperior point of view thoſe men may conſider themſelves, who deride the opinions which their fellow-citizens hold ſacred, this vanity is often overbalanced by the irkſome doubts which obtrude on their minds. Uncertainty with reſpect to the moſt intereſting of all ſubjects, or a fixed perſuaſion of annihilation, are equally inſupportable to the greater part of mankind, who ſooner or later endeavour to put in a claim for that bright reverſion, which religion has promiſed to believers. If the idea of annihilation has been ſupported without pain by a few philoſophers, it is the utmoſt that can be ſaid; ſuch a ſtate of mind can never be a ſource of ſatisfaction or pleaſure. People of great ſenſibility ſeldom endure it long; their fond deſire of immortality overturns every fabric which ſcepticiſm had attempted to raiſe in their minds; they cannot abide by a doctrine which plucks from the heart a deeply-rooted hope, tears aſunder all thoſe ties of humanity, affection, friendſhip, and love, which it has been the buſineſs of their lives to bind, and which they expect will be eternal. Since ſenſibility renders the heart averſe to ſcepticiſm, and inclinable to devotion, we may naturally expect to find women more devout than men; very few of that delicate ſex have been able to look with ſtedfaſt eyes on a proſpect, which terminates in a diſmal blank; and thoſe few, who have had that degree of philoſophical fortitude, have not been the moſt amiable of the ſex.

None of my female acquaintance at Vienna are in this uncomfortable ſtate of mind; but many of them have embroidered ſome fanciful piece of ſuperſtition of their own upon the extenſive ground which the Roman Catholic faith affords. In a lady's houſe, a few days ago, I happened to take up a book which lay upon the table—a ſmall picture of the Virgin Mary on vellum fell from between the leaves; under the figure of the Virgin there was an inſcription, which I tranſlate literally:

"This is preſented by —— —— to her
" deareſt friend —— ——, in token of the
" ſincereſt regard and affection; begging
" that as often as ſhe beholds this figure of
" the bleſſed Virgin, ſhe may mix a ſenti-
" ment of affection for her abſent friend,
" with the emotions of gratitude and ado-
" ration ſhe feels for the Mother of Jeſus."

The lady informed me, that it was uſual for intimate friends to ſend ſuch preſents to each other when they were about to ſeparate, and when there was a probability of their being long aſunder.

There ſeems to be ſomething exceedingly tender and pathetic in blending friendſhip with religious ſentiments, and thus, by a kind of conſecration, endeavouring to preſerve the former from the effects of time and abſence.—The peruſal of this inſcription recalled to my memory certain connections I have at home, the impetuoſity of which recollection affected me beyond expreſſion.

I remarked in this lady's houſe another beautiful picture of the Virgin, ornamented with a rich frame, and a ſilk curtain to preſerve it from duſt; I obſerved that ſhe never looked at it but with an air of veneration and love, nor paſſed it when uncovered by the curtain without a gentle bending of the knee.—She told me, that this picture had been long in the family, and had been always held in the higheſt eſteem; for that both her mother and ſhe owed ſome of the moſt fortunate events of their lives to the protection of the bleſſed Virgin; and ſhe ſeemed not intirely free from a perſuaſion, that the attention of the Virgin was in ſome degree retained by the good offices of this identical picture. She declared, that the confidence ſhe had in the Virgin's goodneſs and protection, was one of the greateſt comforts ſhe had in life—that to *her* ſhe could, without reſtraint, open her heart, and pour out her whole ſoul under every affliction, and ſhe never failed to find herſelf comforted and relieved by ſuch effuſions.

I obſerved, that devout Proteſtants found the ſame conſolation in addreſſing the Almighty.

She ſaid—She could not comprehend how that could be—for that God the Father was ſo great and awful, that her veneration was mixed with ſuch a degree of dread, as confounded all her ideas when ſhe attempted to approach him; but the bleſſed Mary was of ſo mild, ſo condeſcending, and compaſſionate a character, that ſhe could addreſs her with more confidence.

She ſaid, ſhe knew it was her duty to adore the Creator of the univerſe, and ſhe fulfilled it to the beſt of her power; but ſhe could not diveſt herſelf of a certain degree of reſtraint in her devotions to Him, or even to her Saviour. But the bleſſed Mary being herſelf a woman, and acquainted with all the weakneſs and delicacies of the ſex, ſhe could to *her* open her heart with a degree of freedom, which it was not poſſible for her to uſe to any of the Perſons of the Holy Trinity.—Regardez ſa phyſionomie, added ſhe, pointing to the picture,—mon Dieu, qu'elle eſt douce, qu'elle eſt gracieuſe!

Theſe ſentiments, however contrary to the Proteſtant tenets, and the maxims of philoſophy, are not unnatural to the human heart.—Voltaire ſays, That man has always ſhewn an inclination to create God after his own image; this lady formed an idea of the bleſſed Virgin from the repreſentation of the painter, as well as from the account given of her in the Evangeliſts; and her religion allowing the Mother of Chriſt to be an object of worſhip, ſhe naturally turned the ardor of her devotion to her, whoſe power ſhe imagined was ſufficient to protect her votaries here, and procure them paradiſe hereafter; and whoſe character ſhe thought, in ſome particulars, ſympathiſed with her own.

Some zealous Proteſtants may poſſibly be ſhocked at this lady's theological notions: however, as in other reſpects ſhe is a woman of an excellent character, and obſerves the moral precepts of Chriſtianity with as much attention as if her creed had been purified by Luther, and doubly refined by Calvin, it is hoped they will not think it too great an extenſion of charity to ſuppoſe that her ſpeculative errors may be forgiven.

LETTER XCV.

Vienna.

THE preference which is given by individuals in Roman Catholic countries to particular Saints, proceeds ſometimes from a ſuppoſed connection between the characters of the Saints and the votaries. Men expect the greateſt favour and indulgence from thoſe who moſt reſemble themſelves, and naturally admire others for the qualities which they value moſt in their own character.

A French officer of dragoons, being at Rome, went to view the famous ſtatue of Moſes by Michael Angelo. The artiſt has conveyed into this maſter-piece, in the opinion of ſome, all the dignity which a human form and human features are capable of receiving;

ceiving; he has endeavoured to give this ſtatue a countenance worthy of the great legiſlator of the Jews, the favourite of Heaven, who had converſed face to face with the Deity. The officer happened to be acquainted with the hiſtory of Moſes, but he laid no great ſtreſs on any of theſe circumſtances—he admired him much more on account of one adventure in which he imagined Moſes had acquitted himſelf like a man of ſpirit, and as he himſelf would have done——Voilà qui eſt terrible! voilà qui eſt ſublime! cried he at ſight of the ſtatue—and after a little pauſe he added, on voit là un drôle qui a donné des coups de bâton en ſon tems, et qui a tué ſon homme.

The crucifixes, and ſtatues, and pictures, of Saints, with which Popiſh churches are filled, were no doubt intended to awaken devotion when it became drowſy, and to excite in the mind gratitude and veneration for the holy perſons they repreſent; but it cannot be denied that the groſs imaginations of the generality of mankind are exceedingly prone to forget the originals, and transfer their adoration to the ſenſeleſs figures which they behold, and before which they kneel. So that whatever was the original deſign, and whatever effects thoſe ſtatues and pictures have on the minds of calm, ſenſible Roman Catholics, it is certain that they often are the objects of as complete idolatry as ever was practiſed in Athens or Rome, before the ſtatues of Jupiter or Apollo.

On what other principle do ſuch multitudes flock from all the Roman Catholic countries in Europe to the ſhrine of our Lady at Loretto? Any ſtatue of the Virgin would ſerve as effectually as that to recal her to the memory; and people may adore her as devoutly in their own pariſh churches, as in the chapel at Loretto.—The pilgrims, therefore, muſt be perſuaded that there is ſome divine influence or intelligence in the ſtatue which is kept there; that it has a conſciouſneſs of all the trouble they have taken, and the inconveniencies to which they have been expoſed, by long journies, for the ſole purpoſe of kneeling before it, in preference to all other images.

It was probably on account of this tendency of the human mind, that the Jews were forbid to make unto themſelves any graven image. This indeed ſeems to have been the only method of ſecuring that ſuperſtitious people from idolatry; and, notwithſtanding the peremptory tenor of the commandment, neither the zeal nor remonſtrances of their judges and prophets could always prevent their making idols, nor hinder their worſhipping them wherever they found them ready made.

Statues and pictures of Saints, which have been long in particular families, are generally kept with great care and attention; the proprietors often have the ſame kind of attachment

ment to them, that the ancient heathens had to their Dii Penates.—They are conſidered as tutelary and domeſtic divinities, from whom the family expect protection. When a ſeries of unfortunate events happens in a family, it ſometimes creates a ſuſpicion that the family ſtatues have loſt their influence. This alſo is a very ancient ſentiment. Suetonius informs us, that the fleet of Auguſtus having been diſperſed by a ſtorm, and many of the ſhips loſt, the Emperor gave orders that the ſtatue of Neptune ſhould not be carried in proceſſion with thoſe of the other Gods, from an opinion that the God of the Sea was unwilling or unable to protect his navy; and in either caſe he deemed him not worthy of any public mark of diſtinction.

The genuine tenets of the Roman Catholic church certainly do not authoriſe any of the ſuperſtitions above mentioned, which are generally confined to the credulous and illiterate in the lower ranks of life.—Yet inſtances are ſometimes to be met with in a higher ſphere. A Frenchman in a creditable way of life had a ſmall figure of our Saviour on the Croſs, of very curious workmanſhip; he offered it for ſale to an Engliſh gentleman of my acquaintance: after expatiating on the excellency of the workmanſhip, he told him that he had long kept this crucifix with the moſt pious care, that he had always addreſſed it in his private devotion, and that in return he had expected ſome degree of protection and favour; inſtead of which he had of late been remarkably unfortunate: that all the tickets he had in the lottery had proved blanks: and having had a great ſhare in the cargo of a ſhip coming from the Weſt-Indies, he had recommended it in the moſt fervent manner in his prayers to the crucifix; and, that he might give no offence by any appearance of want of faith, he had not inſured the goods—notwithſtanding all which the veſſel had been ſhipwrecked, and the cargo totally loſt, though the ſailors, in whoſe preſervation he had no concern, had been all ſaved—Enfin, Monſieur, cried he, with an accent of indignation mingled with regret, and raiſing his ſhoulders above his ears, Enfin, Monſieur, il m'a manqué, et je vends mon Chriſt.

Happy for Chriſtians of every denomination, could they abide by the plain, rational, benevolent precepts of the Chriſtian religion; rejecting all the conceits of ſuperſtition, which never fail to deform its original beauty, and to corrupt its intrinſic purity!

LETTER XCVI.

Vienna.

OUR diſputes with the colonies have been a prevailing topic of converſation wherever we have been ſince we left England. The warmth with which this ſubject is handled, increaſes every day. At preſent the inhabitants of the Continent ſeem as impatient as thoſe of Great Britain, for news from the other ſide of the Atlantic; but with this difference, that here they are all of one mind:—all praying for ſucceſs to the Americans, and rejoicing in every piece of bad fortune which happens to our army.

That the French ſhould be pleaſed with commotions which muſt diſtreſs and weaken Great Britain, and may transfer to them an equal right to every advantage we gained by the laſt war, is not ſurpriſing; but why the inhabitants of every other country ſhould take part againſt England, and become partizans of America, is not ſo apparent.

I ſhould forgive them, and even join in ſentiment with them, as far as my regard for the honour and happineſs of my country would permit, if this proceeded from an attachment to liberty, and a generous partiality for men who repel oppreſſion, and ſtruggle for independency.—But this is not the caſe.—Thoſe who can reap no poſſible advantage from the revolt of America; thoſe who have not an idea of civil liberty, and would even be ſorry to ſee it eſtabliſhed in their own country; thoſe who have no other knowledge of the diſpute, than that it is ruining England; all join as allies to the Americans, not from love to them, but evidently from diſlike to us.

When I firſt obſerved this hoſtile diſpoſition, I thought it might proceed from their being offended at that preference which the Engliſh give to their own country and countrymen, above all others: but this conceit we have in common with every other nation on the globe, all of whom cheriſh the ſame favourable opinion of themſelves. It aſſuredly prevails in France in an eminent degree.—There is hardly one ſceptic or unbeliever in the whole nation.—It is the univerſal creed, that France is the fineſt country in the world; the French the moſt ingenious and moſt amiable people, excelling in all the arts of peace and war; and that Paris is the capital of politeneſs, and the centre of learning, genius, and taſte.

This ſatisfaction at the misfortunes of Great Britain cannot therefore ariſe from a cauſe which is applicable to every other country. It may indeed, in ſome meaſure, proceed from envy of the riches, and jealouſy of the power, of the Engliſh nation; but, I believe, ſtill more from our taking no trouble to conciliate the affections of foreigners, and to diminiſh that envy and ill-will which great proſperity often creates. The French, though perhaps the vaineſt people on earth of their own advantages, have ſome degree of conſideration for the feelings and ſelf-love of their neighbours. A Frenchman endeavours to draw from them an acknowledgment of the ſuperiority of his country, by making an elogium on whatever is excellent in theirs. But we are apt to build our panegyric of Old England, on the ruin and wretchedneſs of all other countries. —Italy is too hot, the inns miſerable, and the whole country ſwarms with monks and other vermin.—In France, the people are ſlaves and coxcombs, the muſic execrable; —they boil their meat to rags, and there is no porter, and very little ſtrong ale, in the country.—In Germany, ſome of their Princes have little more to ſpend than an Engliſh gentleman:—They uſe ſtoves inſtead of grates;—they eat ſour crout, and ſpeak High Dutch.—The Danes and Swedes are reminded, that they are rather at too great a diſtance from the equator; and many ſly hints are given concerning the inconveniencies of a cold climate.—Of all things, I ſhould think it moſt prudent to be ſilent on this laſt topic, as ſo many paltry ſtates will take precedency of Old England, whenever it is the eſtabliſhed etiquette that rank ſhall be determined by climate.

But this conſideration has no effect on my honeſt friend John Bull. When he is in a choleric humour, he will not ſpare his beſt friends and neareſt neighbours, even when he has moſt need of their aſſiſtance, and when thoſe at a diſtance ſeem to have plotted his ruin.—If his own ſiſter Peg ſhould ſhow a diſpoſition to forget old ſquabbles, to live in friendſhip with her brother, and ſhould declare that all who renounced his friendſhip were her enemies, and reſolve to conquer by his ſide, or if that ſhould fail, to die hard along with him— No! d—n ye, ſays John, none of your coaxing:—You be d—d! you are farther North than I—Keep your diſtance.—— And ſo he falls a-pelting Peg with her own ſnow-balls; and then turning from her, he attacks Lewis Baboon, Lord Strut, Lord Peter, and daſhes their ſoup maigre, olio's, and maccaroni, full in their teeth.

But to drop allegory; the univerſal ſatiſfaction which appears all over Europe, at the idea of England's being ſtript of her colonies, certainly does not entirely originate from political ſentiments; but in a great degree from that reſerve which keeps Engliſhmen from cultivating the friendſhip of foreigners; that pride which hinders them from ſtooping to humour prejudices;

that indifference which makes them diſregard the approbation of others, and betray the contempt they are too ready to entertain for cuſtoms or ſentiments different from their own.

Theſe are things not eaſily forgiven, and for which no ſuperiority of genius, magnanimity, or integrity, can compenſate. The ſame cauſes which have made foreigners take part againſt us in the diſpute with America, induce thoſe of them who are rich, and can ſpend their revenues out of their own country, to prefer France to England for that purpoſe. The difference between London and Paris in point of climate is very ſmall. The winter amuſements of the former are more magnificent; and perhaps every conveniency, and moſt of the luxuries of life, are to be found there in greater perfection. During the ſummer months, by ſuperior ſkill in agriculture and a better taſte in gardening, England diſplays ſuch ſcenes of cultivation, of verdure and fertility, as no country on earth can equal. To theſe are added the bleſſings of liberty; yet few or no foreigners reſide in England, except thoſe ſhe maintains entirely at her own expence; all the wealthy, after a ſhort viſit to London, returning to ſpend their fortunes at Paris.

Excluſive of pecuniary advantages, it flatters the natural vanity of the French to find their ſociety preferred to that of all other people, and particularly to that of their proud rivals.—Let them enjoy this advantage; let them draw to their capital the idle, the diſſipated, and the effeminate of every country in Europe:—but for heaven's ſake, do you and your friends in parliament fall on ſome meaſure to prevent them from engaging the affections of our induſtrious brethren of America.

Such an event would be attended with ſevere conſequences to Great Britain, and probably to America. There are, however, ſo many repelling points in the American and French characters, that I cannot imagine the adheſion between them could be of long duration, ſhould it take place.

You may naturally ſuppoſe, from ſome things in this letter, that the people here are in a particular manner inveterate againſt England, in her diſpute with America. But in reality this is not the caſe: for although in general they favour America, I have not ſeen ſo much moderation on that queſtion any where as at Vienna. The Emperor, when ſome perſon aſked which ſide he favoured, replied very ingeniouſly, Je ſuis par métier royaliſte.

I wiſh thoſe of our countrymen, who by your account ſeem to be carrying their zeal for America too far, would remember qu'ils ſont par naiſſance Anglois.

Juſt as I was concluding the above I received yours, informing me that your young friend was in a ſhort time to ſet out on the uſual tour through Europe. I ſhall take another opportunity of writing to him on the ſubject you deſire; at preſent I muſt confine myſelf to the few following hints.

I hope he will always remember that virtue and good ſenſe are not confined to any particular place, and that one end of travelling is to free the mind from vulgar prejudices—he ought therefore to form connections, and live on a ſocial footing with the inhabitants of the different countries through which he paſſes; let him at leaſt ſeem pleaſed while he remains among them; this is the moſt effectual method of making them pleaſed with him, and of his accompliſhing every object he can have in viſiting their country.

There are inſtances of Engliſhmen, who, while on their travels, ſhock foreigners by an oſtentatious preference of England to all the reſt of the world, and ridicule the manners, cuſtoms, and opinions of every other nation; yet on their return to their own country, immediately aſſume foreign manners, and continue during the remainder of their lives to expreſs the higheſt contempt for every thing that is Engliſh.—— I hope he will entirely avoid ſuch perverſe and ridiculous affectation.

The taſte for letters which he has acquired at the univerſity, I dare ſay will not be diminiſhed on claſſic ground, or his mind be diverted, by a frivolous enthuſiaſm for muſic, or any other paſſion, from the manly ſtudies and purſuits which become an Engliſh gentleman.

As he regards the confidence of his friends, the preſervation of his character, and the tranquillity of his mind, let no example, however high, lead him into the practice of deep play. By avoiding gaming he will ſecure one kind of independence, and at the ſame time keep poſſeſſion of another, by continuing the habit of ſtudy, till the acquiſition of knowledge has become one of his moſt pleaſing amuſements.—Unlike thoſe wretched mortals, who, to drag through the dreary hours of life, are continually obliged to have recourſe to the aſſiſtance of others, this fortunate turn of mind will add to his own happineſs, while it renders him more uſeful to, and leſs dependent on, ſociety.

The preceding ſermon, if you think proper, you may deliver to the young traveller, with my beſt wiſhes.

Having delayed our journey ſeveral weeks longer than was intended, merely from a reluctance of leaving a place which we have found ſo very agreeable, we have at length determined to ſet out for Italy—and are to go by the Duchies of Stiria and Carinthia, which is a ſhorter route than that by the Tirol. As the time we are to remain at

Vienna will be entirely employed in the neceſſary arrangements for the journey, and the painful ceremony of taking leave of friends, you will not hear again from me till we arrive at Venice.——Mean while, I am, &c.

THE END.